

In what state is the giant of South America after 14 years of military rule? How has it emerged from the worldwide economic recession? This Special Report examines these questions at a time of heightened British interest in that country, marked by an official visit (March 8-16) by the Prince of Wales

BRAZIL

Secure enough to allow a dose of liberalism

by Andrew Tarnowski

After 14 years of military rule 1978 is a year of transition for Brazil. Talk of liberalization is in the air, and there are even calls for a sweeping political amnesty. Amid mild public expectations and preparations for congressional elections, President Geisel is preparing to hand over, a year from now, to his chosen successor General João Baptista Figueiredo, who will be the fifth military President since 1964.

The atmosphere of expectancy is nurtured by an intelligent and powerful press largely freed from censorship by President Geisel. If liberalization is likely to be more apparent than real, this is chiefly because the Government is firmly in control and clear about its priorities enshrined in the words "order and progress" on the national flag.

The man most responsible for expectations of change is President Geisel. A cautious relative has been his declared intention since taking over in 1974 from General Emílio Garrastazu Médici, whose rule brought great economic growth but drastic repression of student and widespread dissent, and destruction of powerful urban guerrillas by means of a hurriedly erected and draconian state apparatus.

The impoverished majority of Brazil's 113 million people are apparently unconcerned with President Geisel's efforts to moderate the repressive apparatus and edge political life more into line with economic and social progress. It is unlikely that elite groups like the press, lawyers, students, businessmen, parts of the Church hierarchy, and opposition politicians are powerful enough to push the President further than he intends, despite the noise they are now making freely.

It is, however, believed that the President will go some way to satisfying their demands in order to regain waning middle class support.

If the path to liberalization since 1974 has been slow and contradictory, this is partly because President Geisel believes in stable government, and "relative

democracy" relative, that is, in Brazil's economic and social progress.

He believes political stability can be achieved only in a developing country if political development conforms to economic, social, educational and cultural development.

In a vast emerging nation of violent contrasts, where many agricultural workers still live under semi-feudal conditions, where 68.4 per cent of the people earn less than \$116 a month while young business executives may earn \$75,000 a year, and in a nation where only 30 per cent of the population uses toothpaste, a man like President Geisel is unlikely to sympathize with politicians who say Brazil is ripe for European-style democracy.

Ever-present in the military mind is the chaos under apparent democracy before 1964, and the violence after 1968 when Silva introduced a model democratic constitution which he was unable to rule by.

Government spokesmen say the 1968 troubles demonstrated "the failure of a premature political opening which caused insecurity and brought Brazil to a state of pre-civil war". Whatever relaxation may be permitted by President Geisel and his successors, such mistakes will not be repeated.

But the Geisel Government believed the troubles had been overcome by 1974, and that economic advances had ripened Brazil for political progress and moderation of a repressive apparatus which had largely served its purpose.

Government spokesmen partly blame the 1973-74 oil crisis for the failure to introduce liberalization promises until now.

A big oil import bill unleashed inflation and forced revision of economic and social priorities. "If President Geisel had dismantled the Government's exceptional powers at the beginning of his rule, he would have lacked the conditions to combat the oil crisis", a spokesman said.

"To fight inflation, you need measures to stop some damaging deputy from stirring up opposition in Congress. A bit more authority and a bit less democracy is

needed. Everyone is against inflation, but nobody wants to suffer from severe policies."

Today, government officials say "it is possible to make political advances because the social and economic conditions have improved. That is why President Geisel has announced that the exceptional (repressive) measures will be removed."

However, another shock early in the Geisel administration will ensure that the advances are slight. In 1974 he permitted relatively free elections, and the opposition MDB (Brazilian Democratic Movement) won the senatorial race in 16 of the 22 states.

It was a clear indication that the country was tired of the lack of democracy, an observer said.

The President pressed ahead in 1975, hitting censorship on most of the press and has cracked down on excesses by the security forces. But the electoral rebuff shook the regime. Had the trend continued, the opposition would probably have won control of Congress in this year's elections.

The Government's eventual reaction showed a basic decision not to lose control. In 1977, when the MDB defeated judicial reforms in Congress, President Geisel acted. Using special powers under the notorious Institutional Act Five (AI-5) of 1968, he closed Congress and rewrote Brazil's electoral and congressional rulebook.

The *pacote de Abril* (April Package) as it is called, decreed that state governors and 23 senators will no longer be directly elected but chosen by government-controlled electoral colleges. This ensures full government control in the two areas where the MDB was threatening the status quo.

Elections to the 420-seat Chamber of Deputies and the state legislative assemblies, where the MDB is not yet a threat, remain direct. But here, too, the opposition's teeth have been drawn by a ban on radio and television election campaigning, imposed after an MDB leader bitterly criticized the Government on television last July.

This is a frightful retrogression which the Govern-

ment has imposed because it has no confidence in the people", according to Senator Francisco Montoro, MDB leader. "Politically, 1977 was one of the saddest years in our history."

Within this framework of tightened control President Geisel is preparing his liberalization package. Not unmoved by the uproar over the *pacote de Abril*, which brought a new constitution and a groundswell of demands for political amnesty, he has tried to regain ground by consulting lawyers, businessmen and other critical elite groups on the proposed reforms.

Simultaneously, his chosen successor General Figueiredo, who is chief of state intelligence and will be adopted by the government Arena Party in April, coopted by Congress in October and will take over in March 1978, has been attempting to establish moderate democratic credentials with hints dropped indirectly to the press.

The big questions in Brazil today are about President Geisel's reform package and General Figueiredo's democratic intentions.

President Geisel's reform package will abolish AI-5 but introduce constitutional safeguards for national security. Four or five new political parties may be permitted, perhaps even a socialist party. Habeas corpus will be restored for political offenders, and censorship will be fully abolished.

A general amnesty is unlikely, but there may be piecemeal revisions of "revolutionary" punishments decreed for hundreds or thousands of political opponents since 1964.

Abolition of AI-5 will be a major event, although the new safeguards will probably mean that what the Government today does arbitrarily, it will in future do through controlled institutions.

AI-5 empowers the President to suspend Congress, state legislatures and municipal assemblies, replace congressmen, senators and public officials including military officers, suspend political rights for 10 years, confiscate goods and suspend habeas corpus.

President Geisel, in fact, will cautiously modify the repressive apparatus, while writing security into the constitution. He is opening channels of opinion while tightening control over the political machinery.

In effect, however, he is institutionalizing the regime, subtly edging the military away from direct involvement in the political process. The difficulties of even this modest endeavour have been illustrated by the attempted revolt of the hardline Army Minister, General Sérgio Frota, and by the civilian candidacy to the presidency of Senator José de Magalhães Pinto, representing a more open line among government supporters.

But the senator is expected to have no more success than General Frota met last year when he was abruptly dismissed by the President.

Despite Brazil's economic growth, which is the envy of Latin America, critics like Senator Montoro point to a long decline in workers' bargaining power, to piecemeal development and "pharaonic" projects which have proved costly failures to excessive business profits, pegeed wastes and inadequate social projects.

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Heir apparent remains a stranger

Rocha

will need to show João Baptista de Figueiredo round General Geisel's office on March 15

eight years there, chief military adviser General Garrastazu Médici, and now as head of the intelligence branch of the General Geisel, he has as way round the fifth of power more

his spacious office fourth floor, General Médici and Geisel, the same military college, the same advantage of having a São Paulo hero for a father, being born in Rio and brought up in Rio Grande do Sul.

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In 1964 after the coup he began his climb towards power. The first head of the newly created SNL, General Golbery Couto Silva, appointed him head of the Rio intelligence office bureau, a key post as Rio was then still very much the capital city. He worked in close contact with Golbery and President Castelo Branco's chief military adviser, General Geisel.

In 1970 he became chief military adviser to President Médici. Two of Médici's ministers, Colonel Mario Andreazza, the transport minister, and Colonel Costa Cavalcanti, the interior minister, were to become part of the small group who later worked to make General Figueiredo President.

The other members are Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhães, head of Electrol, the state power company, two of President Geisel's younger aides, private secretary Major Heitor de Aquino Ferreira and his godson, and first press secretary, Senator Humberto Barreto, and General Golbery, now General Geisel's chief civil adviser.

General Figueiredo, none with "Reis Veloso", continued in the Planalto Palace, when Médici left. President Geisel appointed him head of the SNL, now expanded from its early task of detecting subversion and corruption to an all-embracing intelligence operation.

Over the years General Figueiredo was groomed as

One is a dentist and one, the ebullient Guilherme, a playwright and self-confessed liberal. Reported to have declared once, "If my brother becomes President, I'm leaving Brazil", he now seems set instead to promote the Figueiredo brand of democracy.

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General Figueiredo: official presidential candidate.

heir apparent, acquiring in President Geisel's words "a wide political and administrative experience". To make sure he would be succeeded by the man he wanted, President Geisel steadily eliminated resistance. When Army minister Sylvio Frota made a bid for the presidency, he was sacked. When General Hugo de Abreu, President Geisel's chief military adviser, made objections to the choice, and was ignored, he had to resign.

The cheeky campaign of elderly senator Magalhães Pinto for the presidential nomination has been contained by manoeuvres to prevent government congressmen supporting it.

It is exactly General Figueiredo's long apprenticeship that makes a lot of people uneasy. Is eight years in the rarified atmosphere of the presidential palace, in an artificial capital shorn of the passion and problems of the big cities, the best preparation for a president?

General Figueiredo may be well-versed in the mechanisms of the technocratic bureaucracy but what does he know about the life of the ordinary Brazilian? Or for that matter, what does the ordinary Brazilian know about him?

"He has everyone's dossier, but not one has his", an opposition congressman complained. For General Figueiredo it is not easy to throw off the habits of a tightlipped intelligence chief and become a free-speaking presidential candidate.

Candidates do not "speak", was the reply once no reporters eager for a quote.

However, indirectly General Figueiredo's thoughts have been trickling through on the lips of reverential government politicians.

Talking across his desk with his carved wooden horseman — identified by a plaque as a present from DINA (the Chilean secret service) — General Figueiredo is reported as saying he does not believe in a liberal democracy. He wants a stable constitution that does not have to be changed every now and again. He believes that the Institutional Act No 5, which enables Brazilian presidents to override the constitution, is not the best solution.

He is against violence, and wants a partial amnesty and the reintroduction of the habeas corpus except for those who have committed political crimes.

He worries about the November elections and the chances, slim though they might seem, of victory by the official opposition party, Brazilian Democratic Movement, in spite of all the changes in the legislation to prevent it.

Politically General Figueiredo's role is to continue the slow but selective relaxation of the military regime's iron grip, at a pace decided by the President, not popular pressure. His task is to oversee the return to a civilian regime at the end of his six-year term.

In foreign policy it is unlikely that General Figueiredo, surrounded by a group of advisers with close American ties, will take such a prickly attitude to the United States as President Geisel.

His SNL work has brought him into close contact with other Latin American countries. In Paraguay 20 years ago he struck up a close friendship with General Stroessner — the man who is still President.

General Figueiredo has an elegant wife, Dulce, and two sons who preferred engineering to their father's passion, the army. Aged 60, he compensates for his heavy smoking and hearty appetite with daily early-morning riding.

After four years of sustaining unimpaired President Geisel, revealing in a man who rides a horse, and wears black boots and dark glasses.

However, aware of the reputation of generals in dark glasses, a new image-conscious General Figueiredo has just replaced them with lighter lenses.

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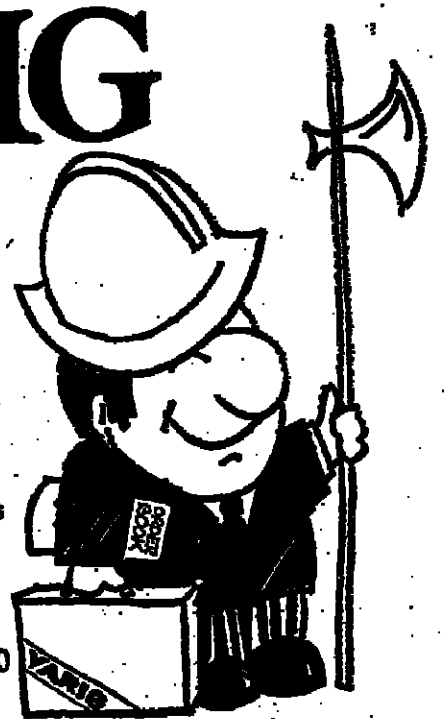
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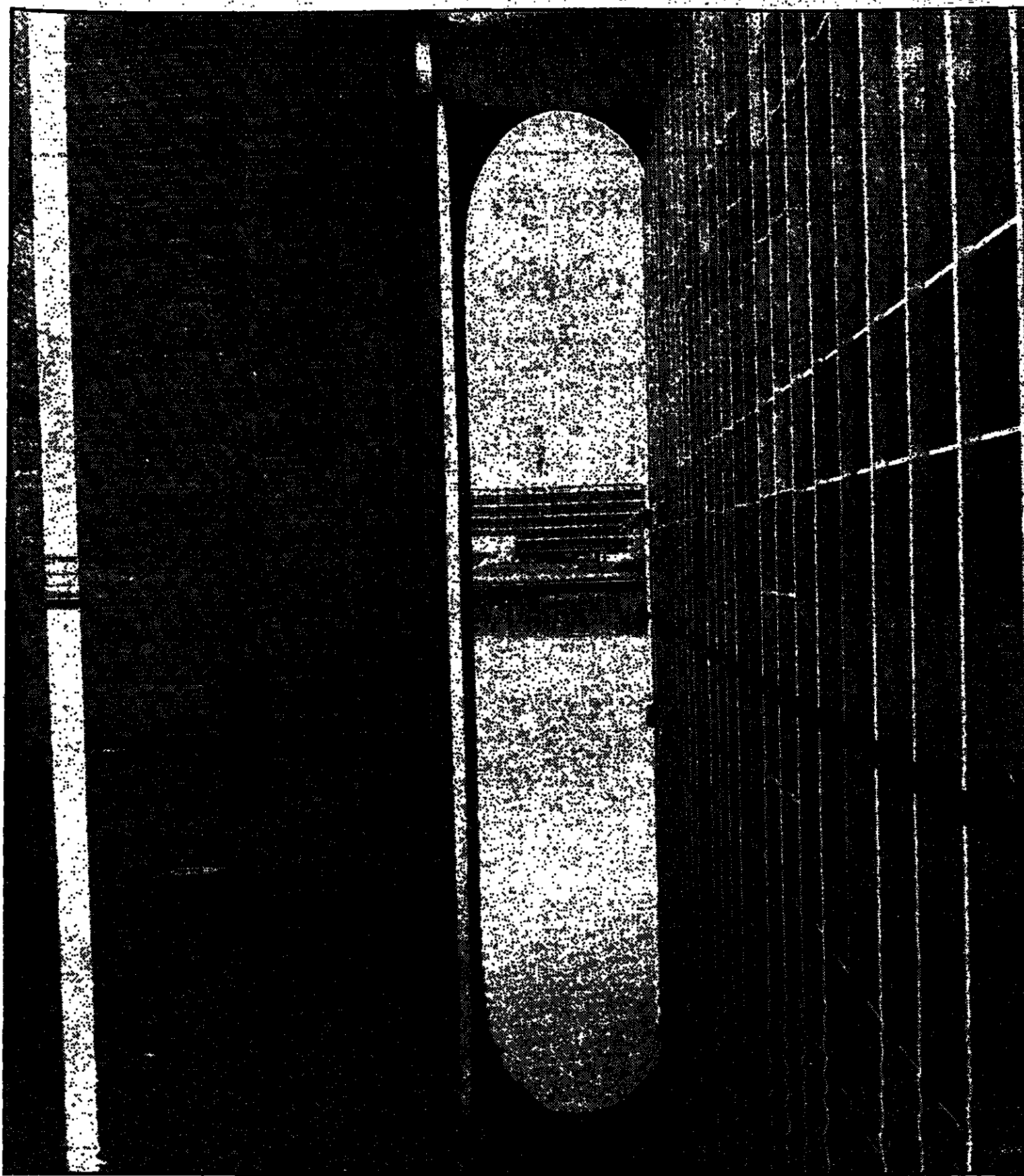
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The Foreign Ministry building in Brasília: following a course of "responsible pragmatism".

Policies reflect change

by Andrew Tarnowski

As a rapidly growing nation of nearly 140 million inhabitants with 113 million industrial workers and a \$25,000m foreign trade that has grown 1,000 per cent in 15 years, Brazil is emerging as a power in the world. Its policy-makers in the marble halls of Brasília reflect confidence of the Western world's eighth largest economy.

But Brazil remains a country in transition. Politically, its final model is as inconspicuous as its economic and social development, and this is perhaps reflected in the policies of "responsible pragmatism" that the Foreign Minister, Senhor Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, has pursued since 1974.

Officials say that Brazil has a fundamental commitment to Western values. "We regard the United States as a friend, and the leader of the Western world, and in the improbable event of war between the United States and the Soviet Union, there is no question which side we would be on."

Policies, however, chiefly follow Brazil's commercial interests and development requirements in line with a concentrated export drive under President Ernesto Geisel. As an emerging industrial nation, Brazil does more trade with the EEC than with the United States. As a former colony with a large black population it professes closeness to Africa.

As a heavy importer of Arab oil it sometimes favours the Arab cause, and as a giant in its own continent it sometimes arouses expansionist fears among its neighbours. "Responsible pragmatism" boils down to getting the best deals for Brazil regardless of old friendships and ideologies.

Relations with the United States have been the traditional mainstay of Brazilian foreign policy, but this has changed in recent years. "It was fine while Brazil had a simple economy, but our economy is now complex and diversified and so are Brazilian interests in the world. So it is inappropriate to maintain significant relations with only one state," a Foreign Ministry official said.

President Carter almost sank United States relations with Brazil. His human rights statements were almost rudely paraded. They showed ignorance of Brazil's problems and of President Ernesto Geisel's efforts to improve the situation. When Senhor Azeredo

described the Carter approach as "one-eyed" he reflected the frustration of Latin American military governments, often driven beyond tolerance by violent subversion, at becoming targets of Washington's new morality.

For Brazilians, Mr Carter's aggressive opposition to the 1975 West German sale of a complete nuclear technology and industry to Brazil was an abrupt and unfriendly sabotage attempt against a crucial development programme. They feel it got the rebuff it deserved, and officials speak of American bullying and twisting and bullying, and of irritation at President Carter's "brutal" methods.

The Carter Administration came in too green. Coming from Plains, Georgia, you can hardly expect to have a sign of the world's maturity in the world.

But Brazil's boldest foreign policy venture came under President Geisel in its support of black liberation movements in southern Africa, reversing the old pro-Portuguese stance.

"We had a terrible heritage of aiding with Portugal the last remnants of imperialism in Africa," a Foreign Ministry official said. "President Geisel was determined to see Africa as a twin continent, whose nations are racially and geographically our very close neighbours."

Brazil thus recognized the independence of Guinea-Bissau before Portugal conceded it, and was the first country to recognize independent Angola under the MPLA.

Behind such policies Brazil has a sharp eye for new markets. Ten years ago 80 per cent of its African trade was with South Africa. Today trade with South Africa remains as large, but represents 3 per cent of the total, which has risen to \$1,000m. Officials in Brazil see Africa as a purchaser of Brazil's intermediate technology, and road-building, communications and motor sales contracts have been won.

Through Brazil has also sold warplanes to Mozambique and Angola, fishing boats in Mozambique and trainer aircraft to Nigeria. Africa has not yet proved to be the market it had hoped for. Mr Joseph Garba, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, recently summed up the lingering resentment at the giant of the continent by saying: "The times we need in large numbers are not the times we need in small numbers."

While Mr Carter visits Brasília this month in a likely attempt to paper over the cracks, President Geisel

to the blacks... economic... would be a very... policy... Relations with the... East have also... merically... a controversy... against Israel... Arab... back a large... the \$4,000m... spends annually on oil... points have... Indeed, Brazil... the region total only \$34... Only Iran, a... country, last year... Brazil will... the \$4,000m... annually, in return for... Iran will spend 50... of the proceeds on... goods... however, had... for 50 per cent... back... The only region... Brazil can flex its... South America, occupy... it does half the sub-... and outnumbering the... population of sub-... relations with... dynamic... Spanish... neighbours are... sometimes mutually... and it is probably... of most... countries... not... dominated by Brazil... Brazil's economic... and stability must... ally make it a focal... for South American... It has borders... all but two of its 13... American neighbours... has signed long-term... tracts with several... for the raw materials... However, integration... held back as much by... untamed wildness of... regions as by its neigh-... fears of absorption... Brazilian market and... subsequent loss of... independence. The... recent Brazilian... has shown up the diffi-... it faces in the region... First Paraguay decline... convert to Brazil's... cycle to facilitate... construction of the... largest hydroelectric... Itaipu, and then... housing... decision on Brazil's... for an Amazon... a more physical... the Amazon region... Behind the... hint that Brazil's... feel uncomfortable... at the giant of the... It is a discomf... the times we need... Brazil has... aims in its own...

Britain makes up for lost time

During his visit to Brazil the Prince of Wales will find a country vastly changed since his mother was there 10 years ago. Its economy has taken giant steps forward, and its stature in the world has grown apace.

Until 1975 the Brazilian "economic miracle" was something of a lost opportunity for Britain. But this has changed dramatically in three years, and the royal visit symbolizes and seals Britain's reawakening interest in one of the world's most dynamic emerging nations.

It was probably West Germany's 1975 agreement to supply Brazil with a fully equipped nuclear power industry which alerted Britain to the opportunities for large-scale investments based on the export of advanced technology. President Ernesto Geisel's visit to Britain in 1976 confirmed Brazilian interest, while his administration has improved Brazil's human rights image abroad. Brazil is now a top-priority country for British trade and diplomacy.

Brazilian officials wax enthusiastic about a "dynamic relationship based on the renewed interest of British industry in Brazil". British investment is now close to £250m and growing fast. Visible trade reached £546m last year, an increase of 31 per cent on 1976.

Although Britain's share of the market is actually contracting because of import restrictions in Brazil since the 1974 oil crisis, and Brazil had a £55m surplus last year, the latter was easily offset by Britain's visible earnings, including Brazilian fund-raising in the City of London which traditionally provides a big share of its external finance.

Hardly a week passes without a British industrial, financial or business mission coming to Brazil. "Prince Charles's visit," a senior Foreign Ministry official said, "is one more demonstration that Brazil is now very present in Britain's mind."

Since 1975 British companies have won important contracts for railway, hydroelectric, petrochemical and port construction projects. The most spectacular new ventures are BP's leading role in Brazil's crucial search for offshore oil, and British leadership in constructing the three-million-ton Acominas steel complex in Minas Gerais state, BP is

drilling the first well in the Santos basin under one of the first risk contracts granted, and has just won a second.

Acominas will increase Brazilian steel production by 25 per cent by 1981. Davy International heads the consortium building it, and Morgan Grenfell is the leading financier. Britain is also supplying more than half the \$500m loan raised by an international banking consortium as a quid pro quo for the contract on which the Brazilian Government insisted.

Brazil has turned to Britain and West Europe for such advanced technology projects to build a self-reliant economy. Officials in Brazil say that the United States is not interested "because it has less state control and its private firms are not prepared to go as far as British, French and German firms in transferring technology".

The new relationship is thus expanding, but it is not without problems. Britain and the EEC are increasingly concerned about Brazil's import restrictions since 1974, while Brazil is distressed by EEC quotas on textile imports. Its dumping of steel in the EEC has also brought polite reproaches.

But Brazil offers political stability and high profits for investors. Although British ministers mention human rights when they pay visits, there are no outstanding political quarrels. Since 1975 Brazil has taken a neutral stand on Britain's dispute with Guatemala and Argentina over Belize and the Falkland Islands. The way is thus open for an increasingly close trading relationship, and it is this that the Prince of Wales will accentuate during his visit.

"Buy British" approach is considered unusable for a consciously powerful market like Brazil. But the message will be clear enough in the Prince's visits to several of the British development projects rapidly growing in Brazil, and not least in the long fight he will make from Brasília over the Mata Grosso and the Amazon jungles, to Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, in a little Andover aircraft considered an excellent prospect for the Brazilian market.

A.T.

The Brazilian Federal Railways

The "Rede Ferroviária Federal SA-RFFSA (Brasil)" (Federal Railway Network of Brazil) is 20 years old.

The Federal Railway Network of Brazil—RFFSA—is the largest Brazilian railway system.

Founded in 1957 it became a joint stock company through the merger into one single company of 18 different ones. Its biggest shareholder is the Federal Government with 98% of its capital stock, at present CR\$8 873 103 886.00.

It is administered by a Board of Directors and a Management consisting of a Chairman and eleven Managers with executive functions. Operational rail services are decentralized and spread into six Region Managements and one Special Division of the Greater Rio Suburbs.

The railway network represents 80% of the total of Brazilian railways and covers 24,132 km, 1,053 of which are electrified. There are three gauges in use: 1,000m (91.9%), 1,600m (7.2%) and 0.76m (0.9%).

The RFFSA caters mainly for goods and for commuters.

In 1977, the RFFSA transported 59.7 million tons of goods (253 billion tkm) and 270 million passengers in the suburbs of Greater Rio and Greater São Paulo. The last number corresponds to nearly 95% of the total suburban passengers transported by RFFSA.

The main goods transported were: ore (32.8%); mineral coal (8.9%); cement (8.4%); oil derivatives (6.7%); steel products (6.7%); food (3.4%); limestone (3.2%); sugar (2.7%) and soya (2.2%).

To meet such transport requirements, the RFFSA owns 1,342 diesel electric locomotives; 42,176 carriages of all types; 368 electric trains; 22 diesel* and 1,129 passenger carriages. On 31 December 1977 the RFFSA employed 101,000 people.

The Federal Railway Network has experienced significant production increases in the past few years, as shown below:

Description	1973	1975	1977
1. Goods			
—net t (millions)	35.1	46.2	59
—net tkm (billions)	14.0	19.7	25
2. Productivity (thousands of net tkm per employee)	123.0	180.2	250
3. Commuters—Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo (millions)	224	205	21

Note: Estimates for 1978 predict the transport of 65 million tons of 300 (26.8 billions of net tkm) and 315 million commuters in Greater Rio and Greater São Paulo.

* 22 diesel rail-cars

The participation of British industry

The RFFSA is presently trying to increase its participation in the country's transport system. For this reason it has been investing significantly in transport equipment and improving the already existing system, while building at the same time some new tracks. All efforts are being concentrated in the economic triangle Belo Horizonte—Rio de Janeiro—São Paulo, which responsible for nearly 80% of RFFSA's rail transport. To reach this "desideratum", the RFFSA has relied on loans and financing from several international sources. The most important of these came from the World Bank (US\$175 million) and from N M Rothschild and Sons Limited (£127 million).

The British rail industry has had a real participation in the order resulting from these loans and financing. Besides the global supply of equipment and services to start the electrification of the systems (including the supply of electric locomotives), signals and telecommunications on the part of the above mentioned economic triangle (GEC Transportation Projects Limited of England—under financing of N M Rothschild), this industry also participates, through isolated or associated contracts, some of the Brazilian, in other enterprises, such as the supply and installation of Centralized Traffic Control—CTC (BIRD Loan) between Rio and São Paulo (GEC-SIZEBRA-MITSUI Consortium); the supply of electric equipment (PANDROL), of permanent track equipment (elastic spikes).

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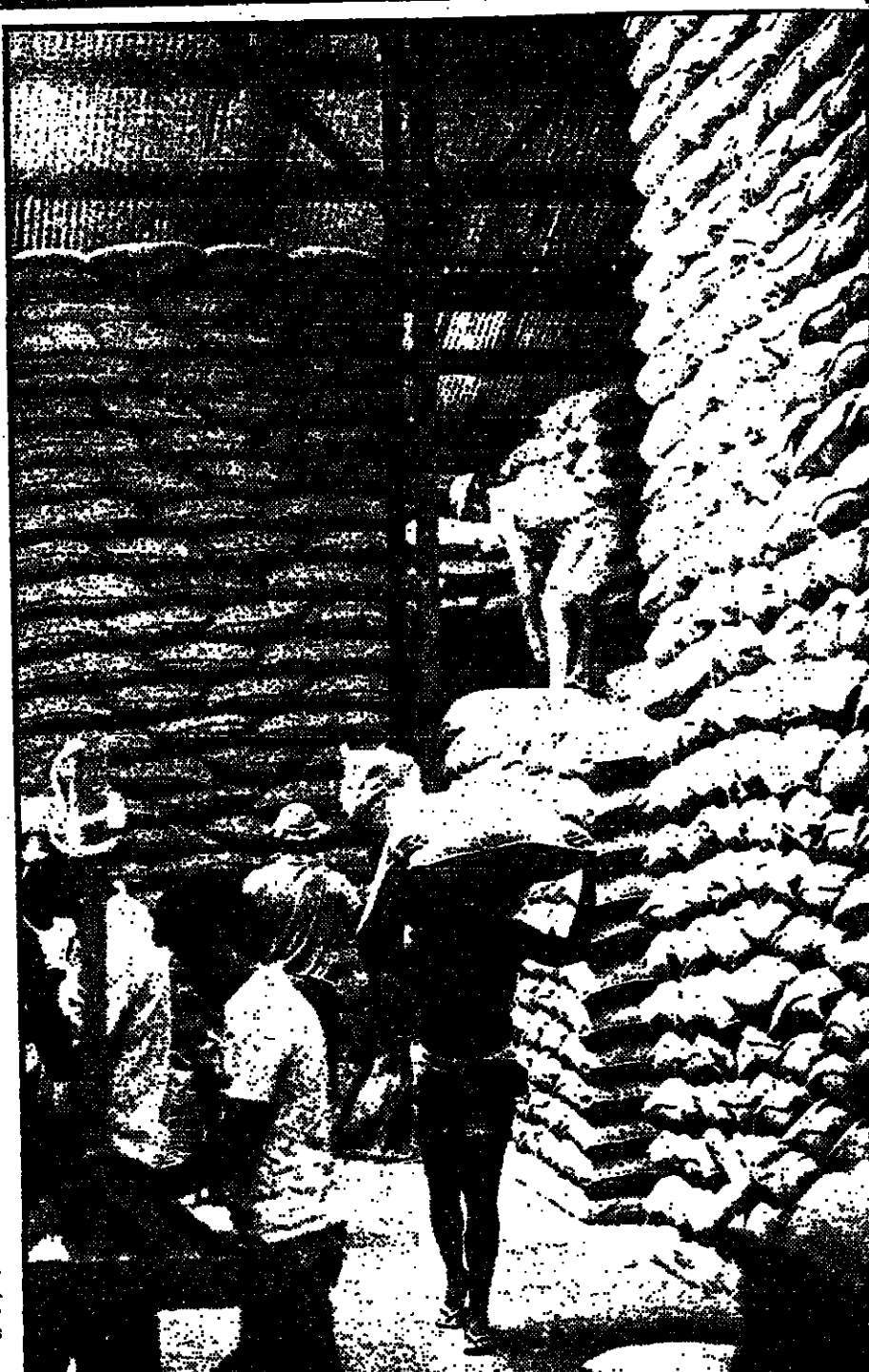
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Coffee to earn \$2,000m in overseas sales

Coffee growers of Brazil have 4,000 million bushes 15 years ago, and the country has a stock of 40 million bushels—enough to keep the world supplied for 18 months. The price of coffee has been stable in the past two years. The severe frosts of 1975, damaged a thousand million bushes in Parana and many in Sao Paulo, too. The price soared to 50 cents a bushel, but has since fallen to 33.2 a bushel. It takes three to four years for newly-planted coffee bushes to start producing. In those damaged by the frosts, it had to be pruned down to the ground. This year should see a return to normal. The crop is expected to be 22 million bags with at least 10 million bags available for export. Brazil consumes seven million bags. At stocks Brazil still has, its production was last year and will be this year. Producers, chains and customers all benefit greatly from the true figure will emerge later. Brazil has seen underestimated stocks in the past few months. It is now between eight and ten million about enough to see country through until next year's harvest starts to come on to the market in April. Aided by poor crops in Colombia and Central America, and disturbances in Africa producing countries such as Uganda and Zaire, Brazil has made a big profit from coffee in the past two years. It earned 10m last year and 15m in 1976, selling far above normal. Before the frost, a revenue of 10m was good. The world's two leading producers, Brazil and Colombia, between them responsible for 40 per cent of the world's coffee. In the Amazonian city of Manaus, they have since approached Ivory Coast and El Salvador to join them. But while the ink was wet on the contract, Brazil was given a 20 per cent increase in its main customer in the United States.

To secure its position as a supplier, Brazil was selling coffee at about \$2.3 a bushel, rather than the \$3.2 it was selling at. Coffee will grow in many places, and many countries are trying to emulate Brazil's success. A coffee "Opec" can thus be ruled out. There will soon be plenty of coffee about again, although the price is expected to remain in the \$1.5 to \$2 range. There is much argument in Brazil over whether people are drinking less coffee because of the cost. Consumers certainly bought far less last year. But Senhor Camilo Calazans, the head of the Brazilian coffee institute, IBC, argues that the large stocks held at all stages through the distribution chain—by producer, shipper, wholesaler, retailer and even housewife—have all been run down. They suddenly became too valuable an asset to sit on, fortunes were made, as windfall profits increased the value of stocks fivefold. So Brazil has not been the only beneficiary of the shortage. Senhor Calazans is confident that even if coffee drinking has fallen a little, although nothing like the 15 to 20 per cent drop which sales might indicate, it will soon resume previous levels. He expects Brazil to earn about \$2,000m a year from coffee exports from now on. More coffee is being planted again and there should be no repetition of the disaster of 1975 and the subsequent marketing disorder. Although the latter helped Brazil to balance its trading books during the past two years, it has damaged relations between supplier and customer. Brazil may pay for that later. Bushes are now being planted in their millions farther north, there are 700 million in Minas Gerais state where it never freezes. The IBC, which finances the planting of coffee, has now sanctioned experimental planting in Amazonia. There will certainly be no difficulties there with frost, although other jungle pests may decide—as they did with rubber and pepper—that they like the taste of coffee. Brazil also did very well with soy, her second export

commodity. Because of the severe northern hemisphere winter of 1976-77, and the continuing insufficiency of Peruvian fishmeal, prices soared to record heights last spring. If Brazil has done well by manipulating the coffee market, it still has much to learn about soy. Dealers held off selling at the top April price of \$300 a ton, when farmers in the northern hemisphere were casting around desperately for cattle feed. After that the price dropped rapidly, to \$200 a ton, and Brazil's farmers were forced to sell at this price or to hold on to stocks. Brazil earned some \$2,000m last year, but it could have earned \$3,000m. The country produced 12 million tons of soy in 1977, compared with five million in 1972. The farmers should be growing 16 million tons by 1980, but soy prices are unlikely to remain so high. Brazil will have to continue subsidizing exports, although the home market price is higher. Soy can be produced competitively on farms in Brazil, and yields of up to 1,200kg a hectare compare well with those of the United States. But most has to be expensively driven hundreds of miles to the ports. When the lorries get there, they sometimes have to wait in queues for up to two weeks, because storage and loading facilities have not kept pace with output. The farmers complain that they are underpaid for their exports of soy. The cruzeiro is still overvalued by about 20 per cent, and that helps to keep the price of imported oil and machinery down. This eases the burden of the \$30,000m debt, but the farmers and agribusiness pay the price. Several neighbouring countries are planning to make money from soy. This year world production should be up to about 80 million tons, compared with 67 million last year. Argentina, as well as Paraguay and Uruguay, will be nearly doubling output. The price can only fall. As with coffee, Brazil is planning to plant new areas with soy. A broad leaf, it resists drought better than narrow-leaved plants such as rice. If the problem of mineral imbalance in the empty lands of the centre of



Sacks of coffee beans in a warehouse of the Brazilian Coffee Institute in Parana State, which once had one of the world's highest rates of coffee production.

Brazil can be solved—and a solution seems in sight—this vast area could be used. Land there costs a fraction of what it now does in Parana, where soy mania has occurred. The price of land has soared by 1,000 per cent, distorting land-holding patterns and causing monoculture. Soil exhaustion and severe erosion are now real risks in these areas of tropical rainfall. If exports of soy and coffee have been the most spectacular, Brazil remains

the world's largest sugar producer. During the short age of 1974, sugar exports earned \$1,000m, but more recently, exports of 1,200,000 tons have earned only \$300m a year. Brazil produces between eight million and nine million tons, but a great deal goes to sweeten those endless cups of coffee. Brazil also expects to be the world's foremost cocoa producer by the 1980s. The country earned almost \$700m last year from cocoa and chocolate exports and hopes to net \$800m this year.

Output of orange juice is also rising fast. Last year, \$120m worth of juice was sold, and there is plenty of scope to increase output, while competitors have little space left. Brazil was the world's second largest exporter of foodstuffs last year, overtaking France for the first time. If present trends continue, it will soon overtake the United States to be number one.

P.K.

Steel planners seek an economic sign

The steel industry in Brazil has grown dramatically during the past 12 years. In 1974, 7,400,000 tons of finished steel were turned out, and \$1,500m spent on importing the rest needed. Last year, 11,500,000 tons were made and 250,000 tons were exported. This year imports and exports should be in balance. Imported steel, however, such as tubes and tinplate, is more costly than what is exported, so there will still be a cash shortfall. But although the steel deficit has been reduced, output is lagging far behind what had been hoped for, the national steel plan setting out between 20 million and 22 million tons by 1980. In fact, not more than 15 million to 17 million tons will be made by then. Delays and a re-think have slowed things up. When Brazil planned its steel programme in the early 1970s, the whole world economy was booming. It looked as if there would be a buoyant market for almost any amount of steel Brazil might produce. With this in mind, and with its almost unlimited reserves of top-grade iron ore, it set about locating important plants. Several were designed almost exclusively for export. One was to be at São Luis, near the mouth of the Amazon, and would have been financed in conjunction with United States Steel. The high-grade ore from the Carajás field, one of the largest in the world, would have been used. US Steel withdrew from this project, and has since decided not to help to finance Carajás either. Another important steel-making project is expected to provide a three million-ton capacity plant at Tubarão. This is where the railway brings ore from the Minas Gerais fields to the Atlantic. Kawasaki Steel, the coordinator for 21 Japanese steelmakers, investing in Tubarão, and Finisider, the Italian company, will each have a 20 per cent stake in Tubarão, estimated three years ago to cost

\$3,000m. These companies were to have arranged for the export of most of the steel. Both are now dragging their feet, and a final definition has to be agreed. The Brazilians would like the Japanese, if not the Italians, to increase their finance by \$600m. The Japanese, who will provide most of the equipment for the steel mill, are keen for it to go ahead, and may put up the extra cash, but they have counter-posed that the Brazilians should absorb Tubarão's output for the first three years of operation. They also want to provide a larger share of the plant. Normally about 60 per cent has to be imported. With 40 million tons of steelmaking capacity lying idle in Japan, and eight million tons of steel in stock, the Japanese can hardly do more. If world demand for steel has grown little in the past three years, (it is reported in Brazil that less was consumed last year than in 1974) internal consumption has increased steadily. Although the economy is not now growing at the remarkable 10 per cent or more of the early 1970s, it is still managing a steady 6 per cent. A recent World Bank report expected that growth would reach 9 per cent again during the 1980s. Brazil's million-ton a year shipbuilding industry, its million vehicles a year motor industry, the vast hydroelectric programme, railway building, mains services improvements, and many more are large consumers of steel. Although all are proceeding at a slower pace than expected in the heavy days of the second national plan before the oil price rise, demand for steel is still high. The steel planners are in a dilemma. What will eventually happen to the world economy is increasingly difficult to predict. Steelworks, with an elapse of at least four years between decisions being made and production starting, are at a great disadvantage, hence the delays and the agonizing decisions now being made by the Brazilian, Japanese and Italian steelmen. Brazil does not want to be left behind if the world economy is reactivated, but it certainly does not want to

face massive debts and amortization payments for idle plant, and accumulating stocks of steel if the sustained growth of the 1960s does not return. Was this the world's "golden age" of economic development, which will never be seen again, because of shortages of strategic raw materials, notably oil? Or will these shortages be compensated for by the development of competitive alternatives, allowing the world economy to surge forward again? Brazil is a developing country and has leeway to catch up the developed economies. That its economy is growing at between 6 and 10 per cent a year is comparable to the British economy doing so at the beginning of the century. Incomes a head are still very low, while steel consumption stands at 114 kilos a head. This compares with 39 kilos a head in 1960, but it had been planned to rise to 240 kilos a head by 1986. Probably this will not now be achieved until the 1990s. The Brazilian steel industry is substantially in state hands. Plans for a big new private steel mill to be built by Mendes Junior, the Minas Gerais construction company, active in Africa, the Middle East and neighbouring countries have been shelved. Investment is now being concentrated at four complexes: the enlargement of the national steelworks, the old-established Volta Redonda, near Rio de Janeiro, the Usiminas project, in which there is important British participation, the Copisa project near Santos, and Tubarão. Even if output is not growing as fast as had been expected, investments of about \$1,000m are going through. Very large repayments are also having to be made as a result, but Brazil nevertheless claims to be one of the world's cheapest producers of steel, claiming costs below those of the United States, Germany or Britain. In a world increasingly hedged in by trade restrictions, with patterns distorted by a multitude of government subsidies and hidden incentives, it is hard to distinguish truth from fiction in these claims.

P.K.

Brazilian
Railway

DAVY to build major steelworks in Brazil

The new integrated iron and steelworks now being established by Aço Minas Gerais S.A. on a greenfield site near Belo Horizonte is one of the most important current industrial projects in Latin America. The works is being designed to produce initially 2 million tons a year of steel structural shapes and sections, with built-in potential for ultimate expansion up to 10 million tons a year. Nearly £500 million of specially designed plant and equipment will be supplied from Britain and Western Europe for this project. The whole of this supply programme, covering every main area of plant and equipment for the iron and steelworks, is being co-ordinated by Davy Ashmore International. Through Davy initiative Britain's share will be £245 million; £180 million of this will represent direct exports, providing 22,500 man-years of

work in British factories. Equipment to be supplied from Britain will include a blast furnace, a coke oven plant, an oxygen plant, and a complete billet-rolling mill complex which will be designed and manufactured by Davy Loewy, another Davy International company. Davy Ashmore International is also leading another international group now bidding for a further major iron and steel development project in Venezuela.



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16 million cubic metres of soil had to be removed to prepare a level site on which the iron and steelworks can be built.



Down to the sea in their own ships

by Patrick Knight

With contracts for more than three million tons, Brazil has the world's third longest shipbuilding order book. The five main yards, able to build the largest vessels, can produce a million tons of shipping a year.

How is it that, at a time when world shipping is so deep in the doldrums, the Brazilians are doing so well? A few years ago they decided that it was about time that instead of letting others carry most of their imports and exports for them, they did it themselves. Brazil now exports about one million tons of goods a year, and imports another 60 million tons.

Its coastline is 7,300 km long, and 70 per cent of its 110 million population lives within a hundred miles of it. More than two thirds of the goods moved around the country are now carried by road, at a time when 80 per cent of Brazil's oil is still imported. So it was decided to encourage the shipbuilding industry in order to achieve several things at the same time.

The five main yards, all

of them in or near Rio de Janeiro, included subsidiaries of Japanese, of German, of French, and of British, and three locally owned yards were enlarged and reequipped.

A national shipbuilding programme was published four years ago, calling for more than five million tons of new shipping. This will push Brazil's fleet up from about six million tons to 11 million. Half the goods moved through Brazilian ports could then be carried in Brazilian-built and owned ships. Already its fleet is one of the newest on the continent. Sixty per cent of its vessels are less than five years old.

The 10 biggest national lines, which carry goods to all parts of the world, as well as distributing along the coast, and way up the rivers of Amazonia, will absorb most of the new ships. The plan was to have been completed by 1979, and cost \$3,300m, but only the first 200,000 tons of ships of the plan were launched last year. It will run on until at least 1983, and costs are rising.

It is still not economic to build ships in Brazil. All the machinery used to equip the

yards is imported, and repayments are an item contributing to the trade deficit. Even now, more than a quarter of the equipment used in a Brazilian-made ship, in terms of value, has to be imported.

This includes complex electronic navigation and control gear, and engine parts made from special steels, which cannot yet be made in Brazil. While on the one hand freight charge payments are being reduced, the import bill is still high. So far Brazil has not been concerned to export much shipping.

Last year, of the 670,000 tons turned out from the yards, only three, 20,000-ton vessels valued at \$23m, were exported. This year the picture will be different. A third of the total, 300,000 tons, is to be exported. Brazil has sold ships to Liberia, Nigeria, Mexico, Chile and Germany.

In 1977 there was a reduction of 5 per cent in output from the yards over the 1976 figure. Only 60 per cent of what had been planned was launched. That was because in an effort to reduce component imports, Brazilian industry was asked to make as many parts as

possible. There were delays in this being fulfilled.

This year, things should be easier. Output should be up by 75 per cent on last year. The national shipowners will be taking delivery of the first big batch of vessels from the yards this year, and they are not too happy with the prospect. A stagnation in trade has hit shipowners hard. Last year, Brazilian ships carried 6 per cent fewer goods than in 1976. At a time when world freight rates are at their lowest, it is cheaper, as well as easier, for them to charter.

They say it costs them twice as much to buy Brazilian. The Brazilian Government does not, of course, have quite the same view. Chartered ships have to be paid for in dollars, hard for Brazil to earn. Brazilian-made ships are paid for in local currency.

The shipowners put a stiff list of demands to the Government recently, including the reduction of down payments for new ships from 15 to 5 per cent of total value, the lengthening of time to pay from 10 to 15 years, the lowering of interest from 10 to 7 per cent, and for freight rates to be

raised. They note that foreign purchasers of Brazilian-made ships enjoy these terms, so why should they be forced to subsidize Brazil's exports?

This may well point to a difficulty ahead. A ship bought in Brazil costs the overseas customer about 30 per cent less to buy than it did to make. So far Brazil is just one market less for the traditional shipowner, and one less market for the charterer.

The traditional shipbuilding nations will try to get restrictions put on Brazil, although they all subsidize too. Like so many aspects of its economy, shipbuilding is strongly export oriented. Its prospects depend on an increase in world trade. If, as the planners had expected, the world economy was growing at about 4 per cent a year, all would be well. There would be a buoyant market for Brazil's ships, and everybody else's, too.

It all depends on whether new sources of energy can be found and developed to fuel the world's industries. If not, there is no way that the growth in Brazil's shipbuilding industry, which employs 30,000 workers and benefits a further 150,000 indirectly, can continue.



Shipbuilding is healthy, but owners say it costs twice as much to buy Brazilian vessels.

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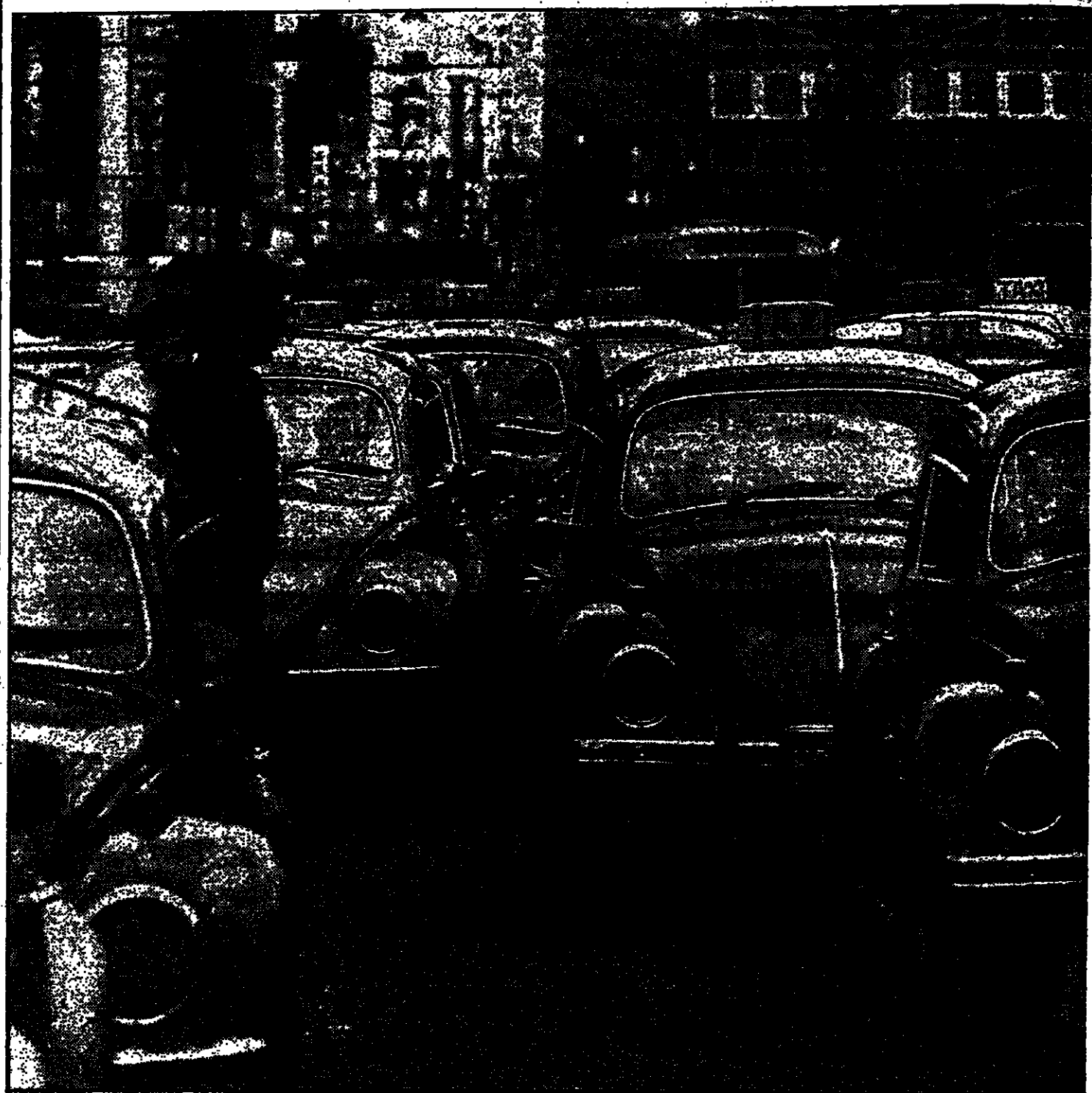
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Beating along in São Paulo. Restrictions on private cars have led to traffic jams of taxis and buses.

Exports fail to save cars from a bad year

The Brazilian motor industry had rather a bad year in 1977. Instead of making a million vehicles for the first time, as hoped, sales dropped from 985,000 in 1976 to just over 900,000. The high cost of petrol, restrictions on leisure motor-vehicle, a general economic slowdown and restrictive credit terms hit the industry hard.

Ten thousand workers were laid off and things went particularly badly. Ford sold 25 per cent fewer cars than in 1976, though its new Corcel was this January's best selling model. Matters were made worse by Fiat's starting production. Forty thousand Fiat's were sold in a shrinking market.

The truck and bus market was much brighter. Despite a slowdown, Brazil's economy is still growing by 6 per cent a year. Two thirds of the goods made there are carried by road, so truck production was up 25 per cent last year. Many private motorists are switching from their cars to public transport. First steps towards restrictions of motorizing in the city centres are also helping the bus makers. They sold 14 per cent

more last year than in 1976 and are working with long order books. The tractor market—Brazil is the world's fourth largest producer—has had a poor couple of years. Farm credit has been held back. But the next President has said that increasing farm output to get the economy moving again will be a priority.

Exports of tractors and implements to neighbours and to African and Middle Eastern countries have held up well. Several important new sales were made last year. Brazil's motor industry is very export oriented. In recent years, the granting of licences to focus in Brazil has depended on an undertaking to export a proportion of output. This has to be equivalent to at least the value of imports needed for the factory. Last year, \$720m worth was exported.

Both Volkswagen and Fiat sent engines and parts to their parent companies. VW sent \$51m worth of engines and gearboxes to Wolfsburg for the Passat model, while Fiat exported 133,000 engines for the Turin-assembled 127 car. The three American-owned big efforts to develop alcohol-driven engines.

General Motors, also exported to their parents. The VWs assembled in Nigeria now incorporate 60 per cent of parts made in Brazil. And VWs are sold in a variety of African and Middle Eastern countries, as well as to neighbours. If you still have a nostalgic feeling for a Beetle yours will have to come from Brazil, South Africa or Mexico in future, as it is no longer made in West Germany.

Perfectly suitable for the tough dirt roads of South America and Africa, it is perhaps rather outmoded in Europe's motorway age. But the top selling car has still a long future ahead in Brazil and on other continents. VW is responsible for half the cars sold in Brazil, and the Beetle is most people's first buy.

Although Brazil's motor industry record is impressive, and this year it is hoped to reach the \$1,000m mark, imports worth \$550m were made by the industry last year. So the net gain was less than \$200m. Disappointed with this, the Brazilian Government is planning to restrict payments made for technology transfer. Firms have been using this as a means to circumvent restrictions on profit remittances. Brazil's motor industry is making a big effort to develop alcohol-driven engines.

The country now has to import 80 per cent of its oil, which makes a huge dent in her balance of payments, and consumes more than a third of all export earnings. Alcohol is already added to the petrol sold in São Paulo. The project received rather a rude blow in January, when a report by World Bank specialists stated that it was unviable. To distil a litre of alcohol costs twice as much as to buy a litre of oil. Unless prices increase dramatically, the report suggests, it would be better to spend more on the search for oil.

Brazilian ministers and others reacted strongly. They point out that while the alcohol programme is paid for in local currency, and the distilleries to produce it will not need any imported parts, oil has to be imported. It has to be paid for by exporting goods and foodstuffs diverted from the severely restricted home market.

The Minister of Industry also pointed out that a severe and continuing shortage of oil is expected in the mid-1980s as world reserves begin to run out. Investments being made now will certainly not be wasted. Indeed, the wide open space still hardly used for agriculture could well be used to grow the sugar cane, and mandarin from which the alcohol is distilled.

Much of the land suitable for growth thing else. The car and government agencies experimenting with using different types of alcohol. Some car engines to run on alcohol, but this is a cation drawbacks, a system blockages, a clean a fuel.

Only time will tell right about alcohol. Brazil, severely hit oil price rise, does not to be caught a second. Oil consumption is only 2 per cent a while petrol cars was down by 4 per

Petrol stations at from Saturday night day morning, aimed at the leisure. Tolls are raised at Sundays and closing traffic movement their centres more for the private car is plenty of scope. A third of São Paulo's population still travel work by car, as spaces are still at the centre and public port, woefully inadequate.

There is still only 10 for 25 inhabitants, with one for six in many, and one for the United States. So still plenty of scope ingenuity of the car.

Handwritten signature or mark.

Struggle for survival erupts in dreams and images of supernatural

by Colin Henfrey

A few weeks ago, in the Brazilian village of Rosário do Sul, several thousand people watched expectantly as a young girl had herself crucified in order to get rid of demons. Although she was only tied to the cross, her hands and feet were slashed in penance. Sick, blind and lame people crowded the hilltop; they hoped to be healed by the blood from her wounds.

Such events and related institutions are too widespread merely to reflect a residual Brazilian primitivism. They echo the hopes of up to half the population of more than 100 million people, whose muted struggle for survival erupts not so much on the well-paved streets as in a collective imagination hungry with millennial dreams and images of the supernatural. Officially this is called popular culture, and by most academics folklore.

It also has its lighter side, from the samba rhythms of carnival to the cut and thrust of a city slang which must be one of the world's

richest. Yet however exotic the images, reality lies close behind them. The voodoo-like possession cults which are known as *umbanda* in the south and *candomblé* or *Xangô* farther north, provide good copy for colourful weeklies; but for most of those involved, they are basically mutual aid societies, whose meagre material resources are boosted by the supernatural.

Popular culture of this kind is usually classified as traditional. In Brazil it is marked by the influence of African slaves, folk Catholicism and the indigenous Indians, especially the Tupi-Guarani. This is accurate, but also misleading. Its richness reflects not so much the coming into being through a dogged and bitter social history, of a distinctly Brazilian people; and it does so in ways which are interwoven with modern, especially urban, conditions.

As a colony, Brazil was unique. It was vast, yet ruled for centuries by Europe's weakest colonial power. Elsewhere the Portuguese solved this problem

by doing very little more than establishing coastal trading posts. But Brazil's wealth lay not in plunder or barter, but in production, first of sugar by hundreds of thousands of African slaves, since the Indians of the Congo and Angola were scattered and elusive.

For their Portuguese masters, with little help from a weak colonial state apparatus, this posed the problem of how to control them. It is by this very particular background that Brazil's popular culture was moulded.

In these straitened colonial circumstances the Portuguese, up to Salazar's time, were rather more than northern European planters. Instead of suppressing the cultural traditions of Africans, Indians and sub-

had a fairly developed political and cultural background, provided the bulk of domestic and craft slaves; field hands came disproportionately from the less powerful Bantu peoples of the Congo and Angola region.

These differences live on today in the culture of north-east Brazil. People still recall landowners' patronage of the festivals of the Kings of the Congo. The stylized fighting dance of the slaves which has almost become a north-eastern sport is known to this day as *capoeira de Angola*.

The *candomblés* of Salvador, the old colonial capital, and especially those most patronized by tourists and local politicians, have distinctive rhythms and dialects belonging to different African nations; these correspond closely and consciously to those of traditional West African cultures—Yoruba, Ijexá, and so on. In many cases, descendants of this aristocracy to the present day are still linked with Nigerian kin, and even returned to form a distinctive social group of craftsmen and traders in Lagos.

By contrast the mass of Brazilians were an independent social history and volatile, hybrid people's culture. The mainly Bantu runaway slaves set up *quilombos*, or fortified communities, like those in the backlands of Angola from which they had resisted the slave incursions. The survivors traded and mixed with the Indians and mainly Portuguese frontier peasants to form a new, *caboclo* culture—a word of many meanings whose gist is "peasant of mixed racial background".

From Amazonas to Bahia and the interior of São Paulo, the *caboclos* developed a rugged, subsistence way of life which blended and adapted their different skills and imaginations to common problems. Their hardships gave rise to millennial movements and their independence to banditry and bitter land struggles against the ranchers and coffee planters, which continued today.

Like their regional dialects, their *candomblés* combined Guinean, Indian and Portuguese imagery with the unifying themes of survival and freedom. In place

of the African divinities (orixás) which feature in the cults of the African nations, *caboclo* gods and spirits appeared—rumbustious cowboys and fishermen and figures from a collective memory like Ganga-Zumba, the battling leader of the north-east's most feared *quilombo*.

Today, in an otherwise booming Brazil, it is these *candomblés* de *caboclos* which are characteristic of the *favelas*, the sprawling slums of the urban poor. Their imagery, with its emphasis on healing, autonomy and mutual support, as well as spontaneous entertainment, is riveted to day-to-day problems, however symbolically expressed. For instance, the theme of *caboclo* freedom, and its destruction through loss of land, is hardly remote from the all too common experience of being ejected from one city slum to another far more distant one, to make way for a new car-park or a Hilton. Far from belonging to the past, these cults are spreading and assuming new forms, especially in the southern *umbanda* which is the religion not just of the poor, but of much of the lower middle class.

These new developments are a mirror of twentieth century social history. In the 1920s to 1930s Brazil changed its policy of encouraging immigrants from Europe; instead, *caboclos* moved to the cities, while the declining north-east became the principal labour pool of an industrializing south, especially Rio and São Paulo. Immigrations had long since played their part in the moulding of the Brazilian people. Slaves had been sold southward from sugar plantations to the diamond mines and coffee estates, and throughout the twentieth century *caboclos*, creative heirs of the Brazilian people's culture will and like its social base, remain so.

Freire was even sent to boost Portuguese morale in Angola with lectures on the Lusotropical culture.) If only at one end of a spectrum, carnival and social cults became both patronized and controlled by tourist departments, politicians and even business enterprises.

The result today is a culture which ranges from sambas which glorify government programmes and cults which parade the national flag, to others less visible to outsiders but far more widespread; and these, with their spontaneity, still echo the hopes and tenacity of the 50 million scarcely touched by a Brazilian miracle measured in second cars and export figures. Perhaps this deeper, creative vein of the Brazilian people's culture will help, some day, to inspire and record a different future.

At the same time the Brazilian state picked up the threads of what had been mainly a feature of north-eastern society: the not entirely unwarranted image of a harmoniously multi-racial and multi-cultural pluralism, which masks and softens the edges of the inequalities behind it. The intellectual spokesman of this new self-image of Brazil was Gilberto Freire, the anthropologist and social historian from Pernambuco. It soon became institutionalized, and like its social base, remains so.

Freire was even sent to boost Portuguese morale in Angola with lectures on the Lusotropical culture.) If only at one end of a spectrum, carnival and social cults became both patronized and controlled by tourist departments, politicians and even business enterprises.

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The author is lecturer in the sociology and social anthropology of Latin America, jointly in the Department of Sociology and the Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Liverpool. He is working on a comparative study of social history and urban intonations. Like the North American blues, Caribbean, Brazil and West

the changing, once-Bantu Africa.



men making a living in the shanty town of Alagados; and the comedy of carnival.

This is the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil. See why so many international investors establish their business here.



Minas Gerais - Area and Population

The State of Minas Gerais has an area of 587 thousand square kilometers and a population estimated in 13 million inhabitants under urbanization. In 1948, some 75% of the population still lived in rural areas, whereas in 1970 this rate decreased to 53%.

To the investor, this population represents not only a favorable market for its products but also a labor source for all types of industrial or agricultural undertakings.

Belo Horizonte, the State's modern capital, comprises over 1.5 million inhabitants, although it is only 80 years old.

Climate

In Minas Gerais, Winter and Summer do not reach extreme temperatures. There is only a rainy and a dry season. The climate is pleasant all year round. Therefore, industrial buildings do not need cooling or heating systems.

Cattle herd - The largest of Brazil

Minas Gerais, with 21 million head, is the national leader in dairy production and holds second place in the production of beef.

Steel-making, Metallurgy, Heavy-machinery - The Main Calling of Minas Gerais

Minas Gerais is the country's main producer of steel shares 45% of the total production.

The State's iron ore reserves estimated in 20 billion tons are of high content, leading the country also in the production of basic inputs for steel-making, such as cast iron, ferroalloys, charcoal, dolomite, manganese and limestone.

In addition, Minas Gerais has 150 million tons in vast reserves of bauxite, magnetite, titanium, zinc, niobium, nickel, beryllium and precious stones. The steel production capacity in the State shall reach 10 million tons by 1980, demanding an investment exceeding 8 billion dollars.

Minas Gerais - the highest GDP growth rate

In 1977, while Brazil's GDP growth rate was of 5.5%, in Minas Gerais this rate reached 10.0%.

Minas Gerais has the largest reforested area of the country

The reforested area in Minas Gerais ranges some 908 thousand hectares of eucalyptus and pine trees. The exceptional ecological conditions for the fast growing species acclimated here permit the initial harvest of eucalyptus and pine trees at 7 and 12 years respectively, superior to Canada (25 years) and Europe (70 years). This places Minas Gerais in a privileged position in the forest, paper and pulp industry.

Cement - also the largest production of Brazil

Currently, the cement production in Minas Gerais is of 6.9 million tons. The State exhibits top quality limestone reserves estimated in 870 million tons, located between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Consuming market

Minas Gerais is in itself a large consuming market, besides being near the country's two largest markets, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, offering national and international investors an excellent infrastructural basis.

Minas Gerais is the best choice for your enterprise

Today, well-known international enterprises participate of the development of Minas Gerais, which offers the best conditions for the expansion of your business. Also, Minas Gerais has an assortment of touristic attractions.

Its historical cities as the internationally known city of Ouro Preto, are truly architectural monuments of the colonial and baroque art. Also, the country's major mineral water spas are located in the State, in addition to beautiful caves and lakes that attract thousands of tourists every year.

These are some of the enterprises which chose the State of Minas Gerais:

Mannesmann	Fuji
Krupp	Demag
Fiat	F.L. Smith
General Motors	GHH
Peugeot	Salzgitter
Mitsubishi	General Electric
Toshiba	Mitsui Co.
Alcan	Mitsubishi Heavy Industry
Lafarge	British-American
ARBED	Tobacco
British Oxygen	Canais Danone
Union Carbide	Westinghouse
Nestlé	

It is not by chance that the most strategically located Brazilian state is called Minas Gerais (general mines). In addition to its privileged geographic location its name is self-explanatory: the general mines mean Brazil's main raw material source and probably one of the world's largest mineral reserves.

Minas Gerais is located next to the country's largest consuming markets, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The State exhibits a modern transportation system, being linked to the large exportation ports, and has abundance of electric power, modern telecommunication network and avails of abundant labor.

In addition, Minas Gerais has an efficient system of support and assistance agencies for investors interested in investing in this State. The most outstanding are SICT - Secretaria de Estado da Indústria, Comércio e Turismo; BDMG - Banco de Desenvolvimento de Minas Gerais; INDI - Instituto de Desenvolvimento Industrial de Minas Gerais and CDI - Companhia de Distritos Industriais de Minas Gerais.



SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DA INDÚSTRIA, COMÉRCIO E TURISMO

(State Secretariat of Industry, Commerce and Tourism)

SICT is the organ which coordinates the Operational System of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, executing the projects and programs of economic development of the Government of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

For better regionalization of its services, SICT has 8 Superintendências each one responsible for subjects specific to its area:

SUCEX - Superintendência de Comércio e Exportação
(Superintendency for Commerce and Exportation).
SUMIND - Superintendência de Industrialização
(Superintendency for Industrialization).
SUTUR - Superintendência de Turismo
(Superintendency for Tourism).



BANCO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO DE MINAS GERAIS

(State Development Bank)

As Brazil's largest state development bank, BDMG has financed the establishment of hundreds of industries and industrial expansions in the State of Minas Gerais. Besides promoting the development of joint-ventures, BDMG will also join companies wishing to benefit from all of the opportunities offered by the State of Minas Gerais.



INSTITUTO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO INDUSTRIAL DE MINAS GERAIS

(Industrial Development Institute of M. Gerais)

INDI's specific purpose is to accelerate the State's industrial growth, researching and identifying the industrial opportunities of Minas Gerais and promoting them with potential investors, through the elaboration of feasibility studies, location, market and other special studies; or yet providing assistance to enterprises in the development of their own projects; promoting joint-ventures, offering assistance in the follow-up stage in the governmental area, of the investor's application for financing incentives, industrial sites, electric power, etc.



CDI-MG - COMPANHIA DE DISTRITOS INDUSTRIAIS DE MINAS GERAIS

(Industrial Districts Company of Minas Gerais)

CDI was established to design, build and administer industrial districts with complete infrastructure: urbanization, water, electric power, transportation, telecommunication networks, etc. The acquisition of industrial areas may be granted in the long run. CDI promotes leasing of industrial buildings built according to the enterprises specifications. Minas Gerais has 14 industrial districts in strategic regions of the State, at the investor's choice. Until the end of 1979 CDI will count on 30 industrial districts in Minas Gerais.



Shanties on the floodlands at Salvador, Bahia. Top: Buses circulate freely in Sao Paulo since the ban on private cars from city centres to save petrol.

by Patrick Knight

Disraeli considered that Britain was two nations, with a gulf separating them. If that was true of Britain, it is much more so of Brazil today. Although there are many reasons why the gap still persists, it has one fundamental root.

To a far greater extent than the United States, Brazil was for a long period a slave state. Slavery was abolished there far later than in the States. Whereas in the United States the large estates of the South were counterbalanced by and eventually overwhelmed by the social and political consequences of mass migration of small families into the north and west, this did not happen in Brazil. There are still two categories and what

is intolerable for one is the norm for the other.

It is fashionable to blame the military governments which have ruled since 1974 for the troubles caused by an unequal distribution of wealth. But it is not really true that things have got significantly worse during the past 14 years. Despite rapid economic progress, they have nevertheless got little better. The gap is as wide as ever. Differences are startling. They are marked both between regions of the country, and within the regions.

The much heralded "economic miracle" of the late 1960s and early 1970s really benefited only the south-east, and perhaps a quarter of the 110 million population. The previous Finance Minister, Senhor Delfino Neto, again candidate for high office, once remarked: "I am the Finance Minister for 20 million Brazilians." He was

In order to fuel the economic miracle, policies which encouraged the flow of capital from the less developed regions to the more developed ones were adopted. For example a value-added tax on manufactures is paid by the consuming states to manufacturing areas.

As the north-east produces only 4 per cent of Brazil's manufactures, while São Paulo accounts for 70 per cent, \$500m flows from the north-east to the south every year by means of this tax. This is more than is supposed to flow north under fiscal incentive schemes designed to develop the region. These have proved largely incapable of providing the hoped-for solutions. More jobs have been destroyed than created.

If regional differences are great, and getting more acute, contrasts within Brazil's cities are no less striking. Tens of thousands of homeless, unqualified people continue to flow to the cities in search of work each year. By the early 1980s, Brazil will be an overwhelmingly urban society. Almost 100 million of the by then 140 million population will be living in grossly overcrowded cities, most of them just half a dozen miles from the sea. The gap between the north-east and south-east is far wider than before. The average north-easterner earns \$500 or less, a third of that earned by his brother in Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo costs as much as a reasonable suburban home in Britain.

While 40 million Brazilians still earn less than the minimum wage, about £25 a month, salaries paid to the elite are far greater than those paid to their equivalents in North America or Europe. An executive frequently earns \$7,000 a month. Because of the scarcity of qualified people, brought about by the very rapid growth of the past few years, an executive can pick, choose, and then name his price.

The gap between the lowest and the highest paid here is 300 times, compared with eight in Britain. As a result, a select few are able to live in astounding luxury. The five-car, 10-servant family is no rarity in certain quarters of Brazilian cities. The \$1m apartment has made its debut. But this is only for the top 5 per cent.

As things get ever better for the lucky few, they get worse for the majority. There are now 1250,000 people living in favelas, or shanty towns, in Rio de Janeiro, and the number is increasing by 30 per cent a year. A Brazilian favela home makes the average British garden shed appear like a luxury home.

It is made from a motley collection of scrap wood, cardboard and flattened tins. Even in São Paulo, Brazil's industrial heart, where 40 per cent of the country's capital is concentrated, 400,000 people live in favelas. Another two million live in precarious housing on the city outskirts. Health conditions have deteriorated as the cities are a result of the pressure. The infant mortality rate in São Paulo has almost doubled in the past 10 years.

Although an impressive programme of mass services improvements has been undertaken in the past few years, the world hardly keeps pace. In any case, heavy people have not the money to pay for the installation or them, during only two months.

Tale of two worlds

market rate, and mains water and drainage costs about £3 a month a person, a tenth of the minimum wage.

The average urban Brazilian has five square yards of living space, a third of the standard minimum. There are five square metres of open space for each inhabitant in São Paulo, compared with 25 in Paris and 80 in Amsterdam.

The city has 13 public libraries and four public swimming pools for a population of eight million people. This does not, of course, affect the rich. They have their own private pools and beach homes near Santos.

So far, Brazilian governments have been more concerned with building the country into a great economic power than with social matters. By the year 2000, Brazil plans to have carved itself a place at all the top tables. Perhaps then serious attention will be given to standards of living. The danger is, of course, that in 20 years' time the questions may be so immense as to be unanswerable.

Rio de Janeiro is the world's second most violent city. There is murder every ten minutes, armed robbery with violence is commonplace. In an attempt to control the crime rate, the semi-official death squads, often formed from off-duty policemen, perpetrated more than 100 killings of petty criminals, poor encouragement, last year. Early in February, a thief was tied to a tree and beaten to death by a mob led by security guards; there have been 20 such killings in the past 10 years.

Psychologists say accumulated frustration and hate caused by poor living and working conditions are responsible. But even the most furious death squads can do little in the face of 30

per cent unemployment. A breakdown of law and order is quite feasible in some of Brazil's monster cities at some time during the next decade.

Most urban Brazilians are no longer prepared to be exploited without question as their parents were. This generation watches television. It sees the advertise- Toytown.

**ACOTUPY
INDUSTRIAS
METALURGICAS
LIMITADA**
Sao Paulo, Brazil
and
**THE CHILLINGTON
TOOL COMPANY
LIMITED**
Wolverhampton, Englar

A partnership for over forty years forms world's largest manufacturers of agricultural hand tools with sales of over twelve million implements each year.

**MEMBERS OF THE EVA
INDUSTRIES GROUP
OF COMPANIES
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND**

**This is how Lloydbrás
will sail around the world the next
365 days.**



Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

Broadcasting informs the masses where few can read

an Rocha

Paulo's new subway already has a rival: London's but is one striking difference: the defensive forest newspapers is entirely new. It is easier to find a newspaper in a Brazilian city than in a European one. The paper kiosks are everywhere. They are reading places, not only for the urban population but for the rural population. In the Amazon the population has acquired the habit of listening to Portuguese radio broadcasts from abroad. Radiobras, the state radio company, is setting up short-wave transmissions to the area to compete with Radio Moscow, Radio America and the BBC.

All radio and television stations are government concessions that can be withdrawn at any time. São Paulo's Catholic radio station, Nove de Julho, had to close down four years ago when this happened, depriving the world's largest Catholic diocese of a valuable communications vehicle. No reason was given.

Censorship is beginning to relax a little. News editors no longer have long lists of forbidden topics pinned up above their desks but there are still telephone calls asking for a certain subject not to be mentioned. Most television news departments play safe by avoiding "hot" subjects.

This can lead to the absurd situation of a news reader reading a government denial on a subject of

which the audience are ignorant because it has not been mentioned before on the screen.

Senhor Samuel Weiner, a veteran São Paulo journalist, described this as the "dictatorship of disinformation". The government propaganda agency, ARP, floods the screen with beautifully produced films preaching peace, solidarity and progress amid setting suns, united families and symphonic music.

According to an advertiser's survey São Paulo television shows 25,000 government commercials a year, or 69 a day, nearly four times as much as the top product advertiser and all free.

This one-sided situation is even more obvious at election time thanks to the Lei Falcão, named after the Minister of Justice, which forbids any party propaganda candidate's name, age, profession, interests and, on television, a picture.

Even the permitted two party political broadcasts a year were suspended last year after the opposition Congress leader, Deputy Alencar Furtado, used one to criticize the Government and mention alleged victims of repression. The programme also cost Senhor Furtado his mandate.

Television and radio, reaching into almost every Brazilian home from the favela shack on a Rio hillside to the still but of an Amazon river-dweller, is not only a weapon of national control for an authoritarian government but a vehicle for a government denial on a subject of

therefore the privilege of the urban newspaper reader. Even so, the average daily circulation in Rio and São Paulo, with their combined populations of 15 million, is only 80,000.

Of the four "quality" publications, the liberal-conservative *O Estado de São Paulo*, one of the world's top papers according to UNESCO, claims 130,000. *Folha de São Paulo*, like any family-owned newspaper, when subjected to daily censorship during the Médici Government, it published epic poems and cooking recipes in the blank spaces left by the censor's blue pencil.

After years of being a second rate, the *Folha de São Paulo* suddenly brightened itself up with a team of outspoken commentators and editorialists. Circulation rose but the hard-hitting articles on human rights and income distribution were not appreciated in Brasília and to avoid personal financial trouble the owner was forced to retire some of his writers.

In Rio, *O Globo* is a government mouthpiece which also specializes in thorough crime coverage, and the *Jornal do Brasil* presents a conservative Catholic viewpoint and harbours the country's top political columnist, Senhor Carlos Castello Branco.

These papers can print whatever they like: only self-censorship or self-interest stand in their way. There is only one daily paper not under permanent censorship because it insists on calling a spade bluntly a spade. This is the Rio *Tribuna de*

Imprensa whose editor, Senhor Heitor Fernandes, in spite of imprisonment and exile to a remote island, still believes in "publish and be damned".

In São Paulo other victims of permanent censorship are the Catholic paper *O São Paulo*, a result of the presidential dislike for the Archbishop, Dom Evaristo Arns, and *Movimento*, a political weekly.

What makes the censorship particularly hard to cope with is its unpredictability. Topics freely dealt with in the dailies are vetoed. Some papers are censored out of existence like *Opinião* and *Ex*.

Others, like *Paqueta* are freed from censorship and can build up a respectable circulation of 40,000, mixing their politics with sex and humour.

In spite of the harassment, alternative publications continue to sprout. One of the most original is *Versus*, a São Paulo monthly covering generally neglected subjects like Afro-Brazilian affairs and Latin American culture.

The alternative press appeals mostly to students and intellectuals and has to make up for small circulations with high prices. Contradictions are apparent when officials' concern for "morality and good customs" is invoked to justify censorship of another thriving area of publications—men's magazines. Although the picture magazine, *Manchete*, can publish pages of near-nude carnival revellers, the men's magazines must content themselves with blurred nipples and censored poses.

The demand for censors to cope with all these activities has grown so much that regular entrance examinations are now held for applicants.

Journalism offers many potential hazards. A slip of the pen can mean indictment under the severe law of national security. Last year it happened to the São Paulo columnist, Senhor Lourenço Deaferia, for making what were interpreted as rude comments about the statue of the Army's patron.

At times of ideological witch-hunts journalists are one of the obvious targets, when "communist cells" are discovered in newspaper offices. In 1975 one of the dozen arrested in São Paulo was a television news department head, Senhor Vladimir Herzog, who died a few hours later. A fellow prisoner said he had been tortured.



There is more to Brazil than meets the eye.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

EMBRATUR
BRAZILIAN TOURISM
AUTHORITY

Football hysteria reaches a new pitch

thians' star player, Palhinha, aged 27, bursts through to score. Palhinha was the subject of the most intensive transfer between two Brazilian clubs when he joined the São Paulo club from Cruzeiro, of Minas Gerais, for a fee of 7m cruzeiros (about £218,000).

ans gazed with amazement at the strange round object. Charles, unpacked from his suitcase on returning from abroad in 1894. Football? The Brazilian-born son of a Portuguese immigrant, come to Brazil to work at a school in Campinas and he set about teaching the game to fellow students of the São Paulo Club. Soon the men and Canadians travelling and telephone lines had formed teams the first league was set up. In 1910 the Corinthians Club came into existence.

national champions, are planning to build a stadium holding 200,000. Brazil hopes to become champion for the time, in Argentina. Sport imported from abroad has come a long way. It is difficult to go far from Rio without being reminded of it. Any patch of ground, beach or street invariably has a football pitch. The innumerable voices of commentators blare car radios, open win and transistor radios. On a television set, 11 six channels could wing a match.

the television news the football results (the main news—and when there is no game they are shown doing so). They say there are 10 million football fans in Brazil, and this fanatical enthusiasm to game means that sports are almost everywhere. While scores of soccer players are nationally known, only driver Emerson Fittipaldi and tennis player Estor Bueno have had comparable fame in sports. Football is big business, kings for 378 games in

the São Paulo championship last year were 24m. Top radio commentator Osmar Santos, reporting, earns 10,000 a month. Brazil's effort to win this year's World Cup will cost each of the 110 million Brazilians more than £10—more than a week's wages for many of them.

"If money runs short I personally ask the President of the Republic to give me some more", Admiral Heleno Nunes, president of the Brazilian Sports Confederation, says. The magazine *Lito* explains "Football is a priority subject and they spend what they don't even have to make the Brazilian team the best".

Many of the big clubs run up huge debts with the Government owing to pay national insurance contributions for years and years. A way round is usually found.

Senhor Shigeaki Ueki, the Minister of Energy, son of Japanese parents, once lamented the speeding of \$300,000 on two million litres of petrol—which Brazil imports—when hordes of Corinthians supporters invaded Rio for a semi-final, but he is a voice crying in the wilderness. Political dividends of the national game have been eagerly sought by governments. In 1976, a year of local elections, a single went around: "One's a Arysai mal, panha o time no Nacional", or where the government party is doing badly put the local team in the national championship. As a result, it has swollen from 15 teams in 1967 to 72 in 1977, and next year there will be at least 78. Although a team like Ponte Preta, included in an unsuccessful attempt to elect its president mayor on the government ticket later justified it with an excellent performance, it is hard to see what the team of Chapeco from a

tiny Santa Catarina town is doing alongside the big Rio and São Paulo teams.

But the man who decides, Admiral Heleno Nunes, also happens to be the president of the government party arena in Rio de Janeiro. In São Paulo, Lauro Nogueira's choice as governor was helped by his efficient administration of the São Paulo club, and the present governor, tacitly abandoned his old team São Paulo to appear cheering on the "victorious Corinthians, the people's team, when they became champions after 22 years without a title.

Many football players have used their fame to become councillors or deputies. One of the few to stand for the opposition was Brazil's ex-team-masseur, now a city councillor for São Paulo. Governors apply massive funds to build huge stadiums, like the one for 50,000 built by the governor of a poor north-east state: it holds a sixth of the entire population of his capital.

President Geisel's predecessor, General Médici, greatly aided a populist image by his enthusiastic presence at soccer games. Brazil's World Cup victory in Mexico in 1970 became a public relations exercise for the Government. President Geisel, on the other hand, like his energy minister, Senhor Ueki, an immigrant's son, has never pretended to have the slightest interest in soccer, and only Dr Henry Kissinger, on a visit to Brazil as Secretary of State, managed to drag him to a game.

The Brazilian passion for football is encouraged by politicians, but its results are often unpredictable. After a Corinthians victory, productivity in the São Paulo car factory rose by 14 per cent to 18 per cent but after a defeat it is the work acci-

dents that go up—by 17 per cent.

Stadium police relieve fans of hundreds of knives, razor blades and guns, but infuriated supporters fire rockets at the referees, reflect the sun into opposing players' eyes and once even released a swarm of bees among rival fans.

A goal is greeted with hundreds of rockets, smoke bombs and thousands of frantically waved flags, some of them bigger than the people holding them. The two-metre deep ditches and wire fences topped with barbed wire are not enough to stop maddened fans invading the pitch.

It is the São Paulo Corinthians that provoke the most fanaticism: after winning the championship last year, mass hysteria took over the city. The governor wisely decreed a holiday, and for four days thousands danced and drank in the streets. At least one fan was found dead wrapped in the club flag, victim of alcohol, hunger and ecstasy.

Thousands of others began to fulfil the promises they had made to the saints—Catholic, voodoo, or both—to be on the safe side! And the sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists began trying to explain the mysticism, the passion aroused by the victory of a team that for 22 years had lost. Most of them saw it as alienation.

Cheering on Corinthians is the only joy for a population that works and suffers most of the time. It's a way of not giving up. They are not cheering on the team—they are cheering on themselves. As a man explained: "Without Corinthians there would not be any emotion in the world. There would be no sense in living."

J.R.

ADVERTISEMENT

ACOMINAS GERAIS S.A.

Ouro Branco: Brazil's Newest Steel Complex

BRITAIN HELPS BRAZIL BUILD STEELWORKS

Considered one of the most important steel production projects under construction in Brazil, the Acominas Steelworks will start operations in 1980. The initial production capacity is 2 million tons per year which can be increased to between 8 and 10 million tons.

The steelworks itself occupies an area of 10 million square metres, although the entire area taken up by Acominas covers 100 million square metres. These include industrial and support installations as well as living quarters.

Situated in the county of Ouro Branco between the counties of Congonhas and Conselheiro Lafaiete, in the state of Minas Gerais, the steelworks is practically linked to the national railway system through the federal railway network. The Vitória-Minas Railway, the Leopoldina Railway and, in the future, the "Steel Industry Railway". The maximum distance between the steelworks and these railways is 10 kilometres, which guarantees the easy supply of raw materials and the outflow of production. The steelworks is 6 kilometres away from the BR-040 highway, and should be linked to it by a modern road by April this year. By means of this highway, the steelworks will be linked to the cities of Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and Brasília. Due to an intersection between this highway and the BR-381 (Belo Horizonte-São Paulo Highway) the steelworks will be linked to the rest of the country.

During phase I of operations, Acominas will produce annually 600,000 tons of medium sections, 700,000 tons of heavy sections and rails, and 300,000 tons of semi-finished products.

The state of Minas Gerais was not chosen as the starting point of steel production in Brazil just by chance, in spite of having the world's richest mineral reserves.

The first industrial iron foundry industry in the country was established in that region during the 18th century by Baron Eschwege. During this century permission for the construction of a steelworks in the Vale do Aço was authorized, but Acominas Gerais S.A., Acominas, only came into existence in 1966 and dedicated the best part of its initial period to the task of consolidation.

The actual implementation of the project started on the 18th of August, 1975, when the government of the state of Minas Gerais took over the company's equity control. Later handing it over to Siderbrás-Siderurgica Brasileira S.A. On February 18th, 1976, the President of the Republic signed (authorization for the National Council for the production of non-ferrous and steel products) Resolution Number 27, approving the feasibility studies for the Acominas steelworks.

THE ACOMINAS PROJECT.

The Acominas project encompasses techniques and policies resulting from Brazilian experience in the construction of steelworks. The project includes several innovations, among them the financial resources plan, engineering, contracting system, project management and an entirely new urban project encompassing Ouro Branco as a completely new town.

The diversification of the financing sources together with the foreign economic situation led to the interest of European financial institutions in the Acominas project, thus allowing the creation of a completely different structure within the Brazilian steel industry. Foreign bankers and suppliers joined efforts with the company, financing its equipment and further guaranteeing an additional amount in dollars equal to the value of the imported equipment, for the purpose of covering the costs, in Brazil, of the civil construction and erection works. This financing is contained in the memorandum of understanding signed in London on the 7th of May, 1976, when President Ernesto Geisel visited the United Kingdom.



President Geisel with Mr. Callaghan

On the other hand, the BNDE (National Bank for Economic Development) also participates through its agent—Finame—guaranteeing the necessary resources in order to attain a 60 per cent content of Brazilian manufactured equipment. The total amount of investment US\$3,453 million, includes financing of US\$2,073 million, and liquid assets totalling US\$1,380 million. The loans for financing are split in the following way: US\$505 million in Eurodollars, US\$517 million in export credits and local costs US\$427 million (in Cruzeiro equivalent) through Finame, and US\$304 million in other forms of internal financing.

The liquid assets which total US\$1,380 million, are made up—in Cruzeiro equivalent of subordinated capital—of the following amounts: Siderbrás—US\$828 million; state of Minas Gerais—US\$276 million; others, including suppliers—US\$276 million.

The allocation of the resources has been divided in the following way: fixed investment: US\$3,092 million; working capital: US\$326 million; pre-operational expenses: US\$353 million. The total amount of fixed investment is divided between the plant (US\$2,426 million), infra-structure (US\$179 million); engineering, management and interest during construction (US\$487 million).

Rather than present an underestimate for financing, for every approval Acominas appeared to submit a realistic budget which apparently increased the investment per ton per annum installed to US\$1,730. It so happens that this amount includes, among other expenditure, working capital in the amount of US\$162 t/annum, allowance for readjustments in the amount of US\$308 t/annum, pre-operational expenses and personnel training, which, when added up reduce the investment to US\$1,200 per ton/year installed. Added to this, for technical reasons, part of the equipment allows for an increase in production which means that with complementary investments, the initial steel production capacity of 2,000,000 tons per year can be increased to 4,000,000 tons per year which would mean a reduction in investment that would be under US\$1,000 t/annum installed.

ENGINEERING

The project for the new steelworks envisages a joint effort by Brazilian companies in order to build and operate the new industrial complex, with Brazilian engineering supplemented by foreign aid in highly technical areas. For this purpose Acominas signed a contract for technical assistance with Usiminas which foresees the absorption of labour of 400,000 man hours until 1980. Work which is being undertaken at present involves basic data for the studies of the steelworks and its layout. PRELIMINARY WORKS PROJECTS—provisional camps to house 21,000 workers are already being built as well as 1,000 houses of the envisaged 5,000 will become the first residential nucleus of the project—general specifications, plant-planning, a budget listing for package deals, pre-qualification of supplies, purchase specifications and the approval of drawings, and technical assistance during construction.

Both the deadlines and the independently negotiated financing conditions caused the company to establish a system of direct contracting, which has produced very good results.

In this manner, 11 months after clearance by Congress, i.e. after obtaining the approval to begin the project, the company had already signed the contract for the supply for the first big unit—the blast furnace (in February, 1977). The contract was signed with Morgan Crucible for the purchase of British equipment (blast furnace, boiler mill, coke plant and rolling mill buildings), in total a sum of £170 million.

The system of direct negotiations, as opposed to tendering, has already produced satisfactory results: a 10-month decrease in the implementation schedule and only a 6 per cent increase on the original estimated cost, as well as the purchase of 85 per cent of the equipment for the Ouro Branco Steelworks which amounts to US\$914,395,000.

Throughout last year contracts involving equipment, spares and erection supervision, which represent 17 packages, were signed and which means that there are now only 11 packages still to be signed. As far as management projects are concerned, 3 out of the 7 contracts foreseen have already been signed.

Apart from considering the alternative opportunities for the supply of raw materials, Acominas is also very aware of the global policies involving human resources, information input, commercialization, procurement and transportation. At the moment there are 80 university graduate professionals and 54 industrial technicians under training at Usiminas, before starting in the Ouro Branco steelworks in 1980.

When it goes into phase I of operation, the Ouro Branco steelworks will have 5,690 direct employees—and produce 2,000,000 tons per year. During the construction period there will be about 20 thousand workers, a number which will reach 30 thousand workers in the peak period at the end of 1979. In the beginning of 1978 there were 8,000 working on the construction of the steelworks.

An important socio-economic repercussion is being felt in the United Kingdom. In Sheffield, Dary Loewy are building the Billet Mill. In Middlesbrough, Redpath, Dorman Long are fabricating the structural of the buildings that will house the rolling mills complex. In Stockton, Dary Ashmore International are manufacturing the equipment that makes up the blast furnace plant. Woodall Duckham, of Crawley, are manufacturing the equipment of the coke plant. All these supplies are being made through the prime contractors Dary Ashmore International of Stockton.

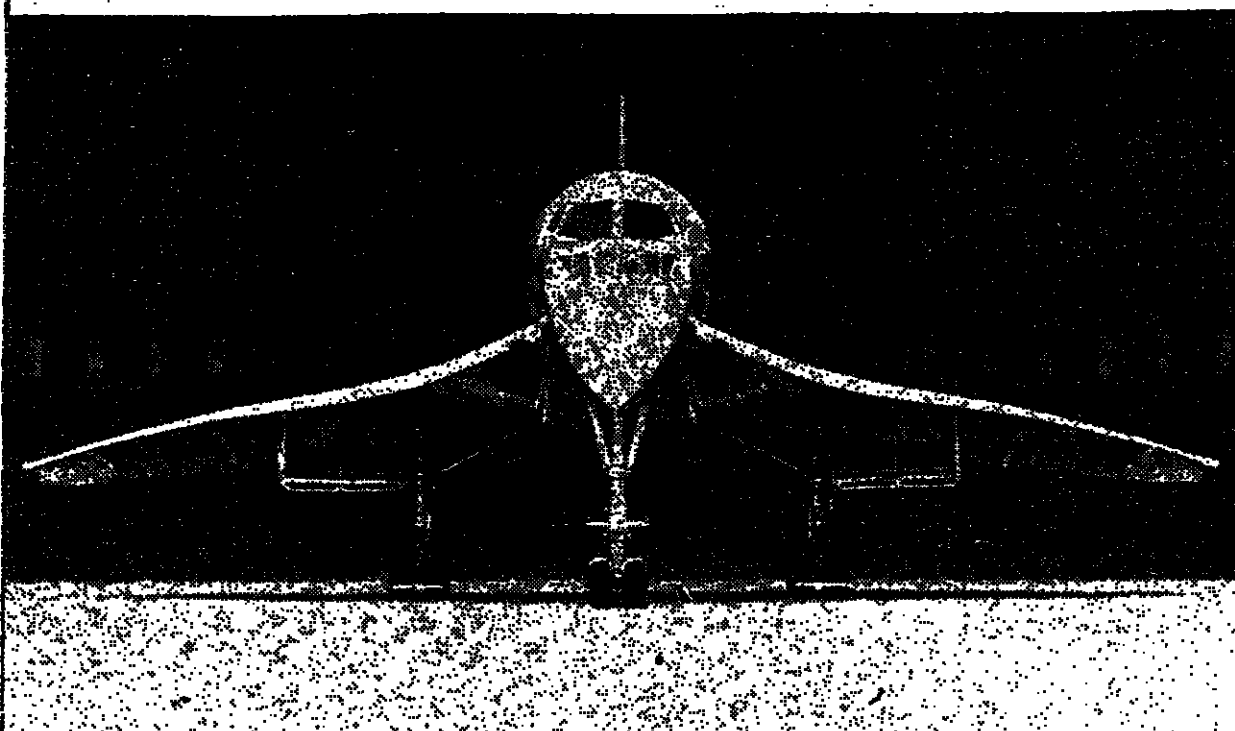
BRAZIL IS THUS HELPING BRITAIN, IN TURN WITH CONTRACTS WORTH £170 MILLION WHICH IS PROVIDING HUNDREDS OF JOBS.

Acominas Gerais S.A., Rua Inconfidentes 1001, CAIXA, Postal 1390, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

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A riverboat on the Amazon at Manaus, a thousand miles from the sea.

Jungle story, or how the west is being won

by Patrick Knight

They will be making dramatic films showing the opening up of Amazonia in a few years' time. All the ingredients are there: Indians fighting for survival, valuable minerals, land won at great sacrifice, then lost again.

Great forests are being destroyed, wild life wiped out. There is violence and treachery. What is happening as Brazil's frontiers are pushed back must resemble the United States west a century ago. Armies of people are flowing to the region in what has become the biggest immigration in Brazil's history.

Some have been uprooted by force, others are in

search of a better life. For a tiny minority, the adventure is successful; for many more, the journey in search of fortune turns into disaster. Because Brazil's new lands often turn out to be disease-ridden traps there are many snares for the weak and unwary; it is a ruthless survival of the fittest, and the gun rules.

There is no safety net for those who trip. During the previous governments of General Emílio Médici, between 1969 and 1974, it was decided to open up the empty lands of the Amazon jungle. This vast area, drained by the largest river in the world, forms more than half of Brazil.

But so far it produces only 5 per cent of GDP and 8 per cent of Brazil's 110 million live there. Médici's government was preoccupied with the potential powder keg of Brazil's poorest region, the north-east. A third of Brazilians still live there, and it is still desperately poor.

Only a minority have jobs and a reasonable standard of living. Incomes are about a third of those in São Paulo, half the national average. To try to relieve the pressure there was an important reason for building the Transamazônica road, that great red line on the map which runs from east to west. It was planned for hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of north-easters to pour west along the Transamazônica to carve out a new life for themselves in the jungle.

In fact, few from the north-east were tempted by the bait. Although poor, the region is socially the most developed part of Brazil. Age-old traditions of strong family structure hold people there. Many young people emigrate to the cities of the south in search of jobs and fortune, but most do not want to make a permanent new life for themselves. They plan to return, and many do so.

In the rush to get the interior opened and make a lasting mark during his government, great mistakes were made by Médici. Almost no medical or social facilities were set up. Many families were completely wiped out by malaria and other diseases, which gave the whole experiment a bad name.

Although the Transamazônica road was not successful as a safety valve, the cutting of two big roads running south to north has been. Both start in Curitiba, capital of Mato Grosso state. One runs to the city of Santarém, half way between the two better-known Amazon river-bank cities, Manaus and Belém. The other is the Foz de Vellozo to Manaus road, which now also continues to the Venezuelan border.

Both were opened about a year ago and tens of thousands of emigrants have flowed along them. They have repeated a phenomenon which occurred with the building of the first great south-north road, the Belém-Brasília, along which a million settlers now live. Those population movements have come to relieve the pressure in the south of the country. More recent immigrants from Europe have been pushed off the lands they were farming by profound changes in agriculture.

The development of soybeans has pushed up land values by 1,000 per cent. Small farmers have been relentlessly expelled, and have faced the choice between the overcrowded cities and appearance of the Amazonia. Dr Warwick Kerr, director of the Institute for Amazonian Research at Manaus, has stated that if present trends

continue, the Amazonian jungle will have ceased to exist in 20 years' time. Some of the immigrants are being settled by the agricultural reform agency on to defined plots, where soils are known to be fertile. Thousands more just squat wherever they are and they do the same thing: cut down the forest, burn the trees and plant rice.

Amazonia certainly has some fertile parts, but perhaps as little as 4 per cent. These lands, mainly along the river banks, can support a wide range of crops. Experiments have shown that cocoa, coffee, soy and many others can do very well. Yields are high, and there is apparently no great threat to the fragile Amazonian forest. Although in appearance so lush, the jungle consists of trees growing on a thin soil cover and feeding on their own wastes.

When the trees are cut down, the whole area becomes little better than a desert. Rainfall is reduced, as is the water in permanent cycle between forest, ground and clouds. As a result, temperatures rise, while rivers flood more in the rainy season. The previous government also decided to encourage rapid development by allowing companies to cut their tax bills and receive cash incentives as well if they used their profits to clear Amazonia.

Many firms took the bait, but then thinking about it, much, and set aside vast tracts of land for cattle-raising to their simple but profitable end. Almost invariably, the results have been disastrous. Erosion has removed the fertile cover, land has been converted by slash-and-burn methods to low-yield crops, and the soil has ceased to yield.

Far away from a large market, transport costs make the forest produced very expensive. Apart from the direct ecological damage, the long-term effect of the disappearance of the Amazon forest on the world's temperature and rainfall which has yet to be accurately computed, there are other serious side effects.

Loaded lorries jolt their way north through mud and dust, piled high with all the worldly possessions of families of blond, blue-eyed settlers from Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul. But they are now meeting similar lorry loads returning south. Often destitute, racked by disease, frequently maimed during the tough clearance of the forest, having lost money, hope, health, and sometimes lives in the unequal struggle against the jungle.

In many cases these families are bringing back diseases which have been almost eradicated in the south. Malaria, bilharzia, Chagas' disease, tuberculosis, all occurring again, threatening the overcrowded cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. A tremendous price is being paid by tens of thousands of Brazilians, many deluded by the dream of owning a plot of land and becoming rich.

As so often, those who pay the price will not reap the reward. Riches are being found, ground is being cleared but those who will benefit will be the bankers, large-scale farmers and industrialists.

They are already buying land from the defeated settlers, or employing armed gunmen to push the squatters off land cleared with so much effort. The Brazilian Minister of the Interior said two years ago that he would like the Indians to be integrated into Brazilian society as soon as possible, for there to be none left in 20 years' time. If the Brazilians with whom the Indians were being forcibly integrated so fast were a representative cross section, and had the good qualities of the gentle and generous Brazilian people, integration might not be a bad thing.

When given the choice, most Indians chose the advantages of the twentieth century, to their simple but precarious and limited life. The problem is that they are being integrated whether they like it or not, into a rough and tough part of society which has no respect for, or patience

with, their values. As a result, they are being out by disease, as well as by violence. Their lands are being encroached by the hungry for whom a sack of rice is worth more than a human life.

It is easy to point the finger of blame. Those responsible for despoiling the Amazon jungle, and directly killing the Indians, are household names in Europe and North America. With millions of holders.

The consumers of the West are also benefiting from food prices are kept down at the expense of the Indians, and the Indians, everything, however, is unlikely that the pessimistic prognostications of Amazonian institutions will come true.

Emigration to Amazonia is now slowing, as a result of the latest military Firas are preferring to stay there, while the Government is less enthusiastic about Amazonia's most valuable resource, its high-grade timber. It is probably the most valuable one. Reserves have been estimated to be worth \$500,000m. Almost a month ago a new and significant find of some minerals was announced.

First, it has the world's largest reserves of iron ore, then tin, now uranium, diamonds, coal, and perhaps \$30,000m worth. Agriculture will have a place, but not very gradually.

Experiments have shown that to tamper with the delicate balance is perilous. An acre of forest contains hundreds of varieties of trees is often replaced by a plantation of rubber, pepper, cocoa, palm oil or the like, or used to produce 25 kilos of meat a year. None of these trials has worked out as planned. Nature cannot be defied in Amazonia, only adapted to it.

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HOME NEWS

Undercover moves meant sacrifices of a kind expected only in wartime

Judge praises 'amazing' work of Julie squad

Police, engaged in the Julie undercover operation, which saw the arrest of 17 members of the Julie squad, were praised yesterday for their "amazing" work by Judge Park at Bristol Crown Court.

The judge, who presided over the trial of the Julie squad, said the operation was "amazing" and that the police had made "sacrifices of a kind expected only in wartime".

He said the Julie squad was "a very special unit" and that the police had "done a very good job" in bringing them to justice.

The Julie squad was a group of 17 people who were active in the Julie operation, which was a major police operation to bring down the Julie squad, a group of people who were active in the Julie operation.

Mr Justice Park said he could delay no longer the public expression of his admiration for everything about the Julie operation. The media had rightly given tremendous coverage to the "amazing" work of the Julie squad, which had led to the arrest of 17 members of the Julie squad.

He referred to the "long" separation of officers from their families and the need for total secrecy about the reasons for these separations and the consequent "misunderstanding" and "strain" which had been put on the Julie squad.

The public were reminded that the war against crime never ceased "only when a spectacularly successful operation against criminals takes place and such an operation therefore reminds us there is a police force in the country

Seminar will oppose philosophical insularity

By a Staff Reporter

A group of academics are making a determined attempt today to combat the insularity that they believe has characterized British philosophy over the past 30 years.

The group, who call themselves the Seminar for Anglo-German philosophy, think that contemporary philosophers in the English-speaking world are concerned only with trivialities and are not facing the serious problems of logic, mathematics, philosophy and ontology, which preoccupy their continental colleagues.

The reason for the deficiency, according to Dr Kevin Mulligan, who teaches at Hamburg University, is that Anglo-Saxon philosophers have largely ignored the thinking that came out of Vienna at the turn of the century.

PARLIAMENT, March 10, 1978

Mr Prentice launches bitter attack on Labour Party leadership

House of Commons

Labour's Programme for Britain

Mr Prentice, a Conservative MP, launched a bitter attack on the Labour Party leadership in the House of Commons today.

He said the Labour Party had "lost its way" and that the Labour Party leadership was "incompetent and corrupt".

He said the Labour Party had "lost its way" and that the Labour Party leadership was "incompetent and corrupt".

to a man they were running scared of an election.

If they were to speak out many of them would be at risk from the left wing elements in the Labour Party.

Mr Eynon Hooson (Montgomeryshire, Lib) said electors should be thankful they were saved from the lunacies of the left and the right.

He said the Labour Party was "incompetent and corrupt".

Differ language test for foreign doctors

By a Staff Reporter

Foreign doctors applying for registration in the United Kingdom will have to pass a language test, a new report of the General Medical Council (GMC) has revealed.

The GMC, which is the body responsible for regulating the medical profession in the United Kingdom, has announced that it will introduce a language test for foreign doctors who are applying for registration.

The test will be designed to assess the doctor's ability to communicate with patients and colleagues in English.

The GMC said that the test was necessary because of the increasing number of foreign doctors who were applying for registration in the United Kingdom.



Fly past: The fossil dragonfly that lay hidden for 300 million years in a coal block under Bolsover, Derbyshire, as reported in *The Times* yesterday. It will be shown at the Natural History Museum, London, some time next week.

Wife who shot husband cleared by jury

By a Staff Reporter

Shirley Morgan, a housewife, was found not guilty at Carmarthen Crown Court yesterday of murdering her husband, Mr Morgan, aged 19, who collapsed in the arms of a woman prison officer when the jury returned their unanimous verdict.

The jury found that Mrs Morgan was not guilty of the murder of her husband, who collapsed in the arms of a woman prison officer when the jury returned their unanimous verdict.

Sea rock rescue

By a Staff Reporter

Six men and a woman from France whose yacht had sunk off the Cornish coast, were rescued by a boat from a rock in the sea east of the Lizard, yesterday.

The rescue was carried out by a boat from a rock in the sea east of the Lizard, yesterday.

Plaid Cymru MPs may oppose devolution

By a Staff Reporter

From Michael Hatfield, Political Reporter, Cardiff.

Mr Gwynfor Evans, leader of Plaid Cymru, and his two Welsh nationalist colleagues in the Commons may oppose the Government's devolution plans for Wales.

Mr Evans said that the Welsh nationalist MPs would oppose the Government's devolution plans for Wales.

Tories should be deliriously happy

By a Staff Reporter

Mr William Price, Parliamentary Secretary, Privy Council Office (Surrey, Lab), said the Opposition was "deliriously happy" to see the Tories in power.

He said the Opposition was "deliriously happy" to see the Tories in power.

'would have come idly' for runaway boy

By a Staff Reporter

from exposure and would have come very to Lester Chapman, the Reading school police officer said when the boy was found.

The boy was found in a field near Reading, and was in a very poor state of health.

Ten call for cancer screening service

By a Staff Reporter

Local screening service and cervical cancer screening service for women aged 20 and over, said the Women's Union yesterday.

The Women's Union said that it was calling for a screening service for women aged 20 and over.

Welsh children may get extra literacy courses

By a Staff Reporter

From Our Own Correspondent, Cardiff.

Courses to improve literacy and numeracy are likely to be organized as a result of a conference yesterday in Cardiff.

The conference was organized by the Welsh Education Authority.

Tory lead only 2%, poll shows

By a Staff Reporter

The Conservative lead over Labour has slipped to 2 per cent, according to the latest opinion poll conducted after the 1977 North Devon election.

The poll showed that the Conservative lead over Labour has slipped to 2 per cent.

Public warned on town march

By a Staff Reporter

Wolverhampton police appealed yesterday to the public to avoid the town centre during an anti-racist march today.

The police said that they were appealing to the public to avoid the town centre during the march.

Sale of second rank Old Masters makes £231,000

By a Staff Reporter

A sale of second rank Old Master paintings at Christie's yesterday made £231,000, with 13 per cent bought in.

The sale was held at Christie's and made a total of £231,000.

Science report Forestry: Insects linked with trees

By a Staff Reporter

newly balanced relationship between scale insects and the trees they feed on, which has been described in a report by Dr Edmunds and Mr Alstad.

The report describes the relationship between scale insects and the trees they feed on.

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Speaker rules on privilege complaint

By a Staff Reporter

The Speaker of the House of Commons ruled today that a complaint by Mr Geoffrey Thomas, a Conservative MP, that the Speaker had acted improperly in refusing to allow a debate on the subject of the House of Commons' privilege, was not valid.

The Speaker ruled that the complaint was not valid.

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Readers' Protection Scheme Mail Order Advertising

With effect from April 1, 1975, national newspapers have set up a Central Fund to refund money paid by readers who have been misled by mail order advertisers. This fund is financed by a levy on all mail order advertisers. The fund is used to pay compensation to readers who have been misled by mail order advertisers. The fund is used to pay compensation to readers who have been misled by mail order advertisers.

POSTAL SHOPPING

also appears on page 25

WEST EUROPE



Defendants in the Red Brigade terror trial being led in chains from the Turin courtroom yesterday.

Turin anti-terror chief dies in a hail of bullets

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 10

Terrorists threw down their heaviest challenge yet to the security of the state with the finely calculated murder of a former anti-terrorist squad police chief on a Turin street this morning. Little more than an hour before hearings were due to be resumed in the trial of alleged leaders of the Red Brigades group.

The Turin trial. It was Signor Ferraro who yesterday read a statement on behalf of the defence and threatening fresh violence.

It is not certain, however, that the Red Brigades were responsible for today's murder. A Turin newspaper received an anonymous telephone call claiming responsibility for the Red Brigades and the police found the claim likely to be true.

A second telephone call, to a news agency, was more specific. A voice described as a lieutenant and stammering said that the trial must not take place and issued a warning that Signora Adelaide Aglietta, secretary of the Radical Party who is a lay judge at the trial, would be the next victim.

Signor Ferraro who was waiting for a train to take him to a police station.

He was struck by seven bullets, two of which were fired from his own pistol. Apparently when he saw the three approaching, and the first shot had been fired, he reached for his gun. One of the terrorists apparently took hold of it and fired.

Election date dispute in Spain settled

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, March 10

The parliamentary storm over the date of Spain's municipal elections began to blow over today after a Government promise to hold them not later than one month from the approval of a new constitution.

Sordid Realpolitik brings ruling parties into odium and invites defeat in safest of constituencies

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 10

It can be argued that the outcome of Sunday's parliamentary elections in France depends on the women's vote: they account for over 52 per cent of the electorate.

However, there were only nine women out of 490 members in the outgoing assembly; and although there are 679 women candidates (against 3,587 men) most of those, as one of them told me, are mere kamikaze candidates, without a hope of winning a seat. Only a score or so have an outside chance.

Woman takes on Gaullist Goliath

She naturally thought she would be chosen to carry the Gaullist colours.

But M. Harsant wanted her seat, and M. Chirac, the Gaullist leader, declared himself last December: "Between a candidate I like and appreciate, and a man who through his newspaper supports 30 of our candidates, I had to make a choice. I had to take into account the overall party interest."

Initial investigations showed that General Pérez Vega had been drinking, apparently with another person. It seemed that he had been lured to the house for an amorous rendezvous.

His chauffeur said the general had sent him to buy drink. When he returned, he found the house locked and assumed the general did not want to be disturbed. —Agence France Presse.

Portuguese are given £10m loan by Britain

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, March 10

Under an agreement signed last week, Britain is to loan Portugal £10m (nearly £10m). Of this, £5m will be made available immediately, and the rest later this year.

Club membership card clue in Empain kidnapping

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 10

The police team that has been trying for the past six weeks to find Baron Edouard-Jean Empain, the Belgian industrialist, and the gang which kidnapped him, have a new clue to work on. It is a hunting club membership card signed by the baron and dated from 1974, which was found on Wednesday in the letter box of a block of flats in the suburbs of Lyons.

Baader-Meinhof man jailed

Munich, March 10.—A West German court today sentenced Rolf Pöhl, a member of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist gang, to three years and three months' imprisonment for extortion in connection with a kidnapping.

Russia using spy lorries inside Scandinavia

From Geoffrey Dodd
Copenhagen, March 10

Heavy road transport vehicles filled with electronic equipment are being used by Warsaw Pact countries as a land equivalent to spy trawlers to collect intelligence information in Scandinavia.

OVERSEAS

S Africans free editors of banned paper

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, March 10

Mr. Percy Qoboza, editor of the banned South African newspaper for blacks, *The World*, was freed from prison today after being detained for nearly five months without charge. Nine other black leaders seized in the security raids ordered by Mr. James Kruger, Minister of Justice and Police, last October, were also released.

Mr. Kruger announced in Cape Town that Mr. Qoboza, who is 40, was free to return to his profession. "It depends on the people who employed him," he said.

In Johannesburg, Mr. C. L. C. Howie, managing director of the Argus printing and publishing company which owns *The World*, said Mr. Qoboza would be taking immediate leave. "When he returns we will be discussing the future of the black newspaper market with him."

Nicaraguan general murdered

Managua, March 10.—General Reynaldo Pérez Vega, chief of staff of the Nicaraguan National Guard, has been shot dead by guerrillas.

A communiqué issued by the Sandinista National Liberation Front said he had been executed for "having led the repression in Masaya" late last month, when some 70 people were killed and about 150 disappeared.

Regrets to letter on Mrs Gandhi

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, March 10

Mr. Manmohan Chandra, Minister of External Affairs, has written a letter to the Government of India expressing his regret that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had not been able to attend the funeral of the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Students and troops in Jakarta clash

Jakarta, March 10.—Troops and anti-government students clashed in a central Jakarta street today, causing some shops to close on the eve of the People's Congress plenary session tomorrow.

Three nations are ready to protect Belize

Georgetown, Guyana, 10.—Belize, Guyana, and Jamaica have agreed to part in a multilateral arrangement that would the territorial integrity of independent Belize. Mr. Price, Premier of Belize, said he was pleased to announce the agreement.

Coal miners reopen talks after court intervenes

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 10

Negotiations between coal mine owners and leaders of the country's 160,000 striking miners resumed here today as law officers travelled across the country to deliver copies of a court order designed to end the three-month-old stoppage.

President Carter said yesterday in response to a request from the Administration. The order, obtained under the Taft-Hartley Act, requires the miners to return immediately and to negotiations to resume between the two sides for up to 80 days. But in practice few miners are expected to obey the order.

Civil servants in Lisbon go on strike

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, March 10

Some 30,000 Portuguese civil servants went on strike today. The strike is regarded by the Government as politically motivated and it has forbidden picketing.

W Germany and Brazil agree to work together

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, March 10

Brazil and West Germany pledged to cooperate more closely in future in a joint communiqué issued at the end of President Geisel's five-day visit to Germany.

Handwritten signature or mark.

The British Council and the British Embassy have worked hard to ensure that such exhibitions are genuinely open to the public. There is a fear that they might simply be window dressing after Helsinki. The Anglo-Soviet protocol for example has a number of restrictive provisions, allowing the exclusion of books unacceptable to the receiving country and allowing that country to decide how visitors should handle the books on display.

No Russians will be able to buy directly any of the books they see on display. They must order with that state organization buying international books, libraries and others with foreign currency allowances may buy directly. But many publishing houses send representatives today.

The Soviet market would be very attractive to British publishers. The demand is such that Western books sell for grossly inflated prices second-hand—which is the Soviet justification for the very high price of most books in shops and libraries. Russians can afford very large print runs.

Mr George Riches, the managing director of Phaidon Art Books, who spoke for the many publishers exhibiting in Moscow, said that there was scope for joint editions with the Russians, especially of art books.

Other publishers, including three representatives of big British companies who came on an informal visit last week, believe the Russians can be persuaded to place substantial orders.

The only constraints are the Soviet shortage of currency for buying directly and of paper for republishing editions here.

Saturday Review

Scandal in the firm

by Graham Greene

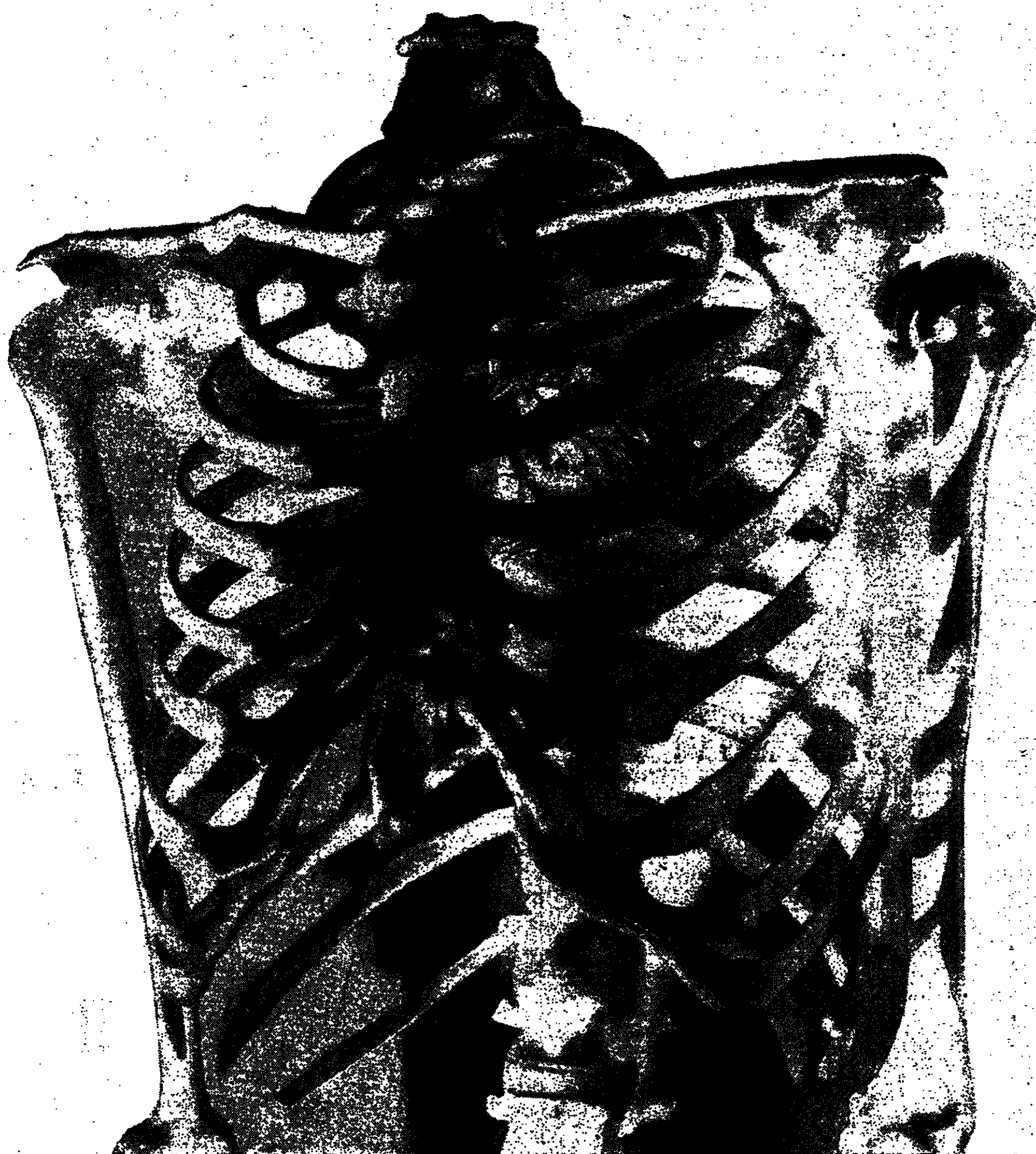


Illustration by Franklin Wilson

Doctor Percival had invited Sir John Hargreaves to lunch with him at his club, the Reform. They made a habit of lunching alternately at the Reform and the Travellers once a month on a Saturday, when most members had already gone into the country. Pall Mall, a steely grey, like a Victorian engraving, was framed by the long windows. The Indian summer was nearly over, the clocks had all been altered, and you could feel the approach of winter concealed in the smallest wind. They began with smoked trout which led Sir John Hargreaves to tell Doctor Percival that he was now seriously thinking of trying to stock the stream which divided his park from the agricultural land. "I'll need your advice, Emmanuel," he said. They were on Christian-name terms, when they were safely alone.

For a long while they talked of fishing for trout, or rather Doctor Percival talked, it was subject which always appeared a limited one to Hargreaves, but he knew Doctor Percival would be quite capable of enlarging on it until dinner. However, he was shifted from trout to another favourite topic by a chance diversion to the subject of his club. "If I had a conscience," Doctor Percival said, "I would not remain a member here. I'm a member because the food—and the smoked trout too if you will forgive me, John—is the best in London."

"I like the food at the Travellers just as much," Hargreaves said. "Ah, but you are forgetting our steak-and-kidney pudding. I know you won't like me saying so, but I prefer it to your wife's pie. Pasty holds the gravy at a distance. Pudding absorbs the gravy. Pudding, you might say, cooperates."

"But why would your conscience be troubled, Emmanuel, even if you had one—which is a most unlikely supposition?" "You must know that to be a member here I had to sign a declaration in favour of the Reform Act of 1866. True, that Act was not so bad as some of its successors, like giving the vote a eighteen, but it opened the gates to the pernicious doctrine of one man one vote. Even the Russians subscribe to that now for propaganda purposes, but they are clever enough to make sure that the things they can vote for in their own country are of no importance at all."

"What a reactionary you are, Emmanuel. I do believe, though, there's something in what you say about pudding and pasty. We might try our pudding next year—if we are still able to afford a shoot."

"If you can't, it will be because of one man one vote. Be honest, John, and admit what a hash that stupid idea has made of Africa."

"I suppose it takes time for true democracy to work." "That kind of democracy will never work."

"Would you really like to go back to the householder's vote, Emmanuel?" Hargreaves could never tell to what extent Doctor Percival was really serious.

"Yes, why not? The income required for a man to vote would be properly adjusted, of course, each year to deal with inflation. Four thousand a year might be the proper level for getting a vote today. That would give the miners and dockers a vote, which would save us a lot of trouble."

After coffee they walked, by common consent, down the

great Gladstonian stairs out into the chill of Pall Mall. The old brickwork of St James's Palace glowed like a dying fire through the grey weather, and the sentry flickered scarlet—a last doomed flame. They crossed into the park and Doctor Percival said, "Returning for a moment to trout..." They chose a bench where they could watch the ducks move with the effortlessness of magnetic toys across the surface of the pond. They both wore the same heavy tweed overcoats, the overcoats of men who live by choice in the country. A man wearing a bowler hat passed them; he was carrying an umbrella and he frowned at some thought of his own as he went by. "That's Browne with an e," Doctor Percival said.

"What a lot of people you know, Emmanuel."

"One of the PM's economic advisers. I wouldn't give him a vote whatever he earned."

"Well, let's talk a little business, shall we? Now we are alone, I suppose you are afraid of being bugged at the Reform."

"Why not? Surrounded by a lot of one man one vote fanatics. If they were capable of giving the vote to a bunch of cannibals..."

"You mustn't run down cannibals," Hargreaves said. "Some of my best friends have been cannibals, and now that Browne with an e is out of earshot..."

"I've been going over things very carefully, John. With Dainty, and personally I'm convinced that Davis is the man we are looking for."

"Is Dainty convinced too?"

"No. It's all circumstantial,

it has to be, and Dainty's got a very legalistic mind. I can't pretend that I like Dainty. No humour, but naturally very conscientious. I spent an evening with Davis, a few weeks ago. He's not an advanced alcoholic like Burgess and Maclean, but he drinks a lot—and he's been drinking more since our check started, I think. Like those two and Philby, he's obviously under some sort of strain. A bit of a manic depressive—and a manic depressive usually has that touch of schizoid about him essential for a double agent. He's anxious to get abroad. Probably because he knows he's being watched and perhaps they've forbidden him to try and bolt. Of course he'd be out of our control in Lourenço Marques and in a very useful spot for them."

"But what about the evidence?"

"It's a bit patchy still, but can we afford to wait for perfect evidence, John? After all we don't intend to put him on trial. The alternative is Castle (you agreed with me that we could rule out Watson), and we've gone into Castle just as thoroughly. Happy second marriage, first wife killed in the blitz, a good family background, the father was a doctor—one of those old-fashioned GPs, a member of the Liberal Party, but not, please note, of the Reform. Who looked after his patients through a lifetime and forgot to send in bills, the mother's still alive—she was a head warden in the blitz and won the George Medal. A bit of a pacifist and attends Conservative rallies. Pretty good stock, you'll admit. No sign of heavy drinking with Castle, careful about money too. Davis spends a good deal on port and whisky and his Jaguar,

bets regularly on the tote—pretends to be a judge of form and to win quite a lot—that's a classic excuse for spending more than you earn. Dainty told me he was caught once taking a report from 59800 out of the office. Said he meant to read it over lunch. Then you remember the day we had the conference with MI5 and you wanted him to be present. Left the office to see his dentist—he never went to his dentist (his teeth are in perfect condition—I know that myself) and then two weeks later we got evidence of another leak."

"Do we know where he went?"

"Dainty was already having him shadowed by Special Branch. He went to the Zoo. Through the members' entrance. The chap who was following him had to queue up at the ordinary entrance and lost him. A nice touch."

"Any idea whom he met?"

"He's a clever one. Must have known he was followed. It turned out that he hadn't gone to the zoo, but he was meeting his secretary (it was her day off) at the paddocks. But there was that report you wanted to talk to him about. It was never in the safe—Dainty checked that."

"Not a very important report. Oh, it's all a bit shady, I admit, but I wouldn't call any of it hard evidence, Emmanuel. Did he meet the secretary?"

"Oh, he met her all right. He left the Zoo with her, but what happened in between?"

"Have you tried the marked note technique?"

"I told him in strict confidence a bogus story about researches at Porton, but nothing's turned up yet."

"I don't see how we can act on what you've got at present."

"Suppose he panicked and tried to make a bolt for it?"

"Then we'd have to act quickly. Have you decided on how we should act?"

"I'm working on rather a cute little notion, John. Peanuts."

"Peanuts?"

"Those little salted things you eat with cocktails."

"Of course, I know what peanuts are, Emmanuel. Don't forget I was a Commissioner in West Africa."

"Well, they're the answer. Peanuts when they go bad produce a mould. Caused by a group of highly toxic substances known collectively as aflatoxin. And aflatoxin is the answer to our little problem."

"How does it work?"

"We don't know for certain about human beings, but so animal seems immune, so it's highly unlikely that we are. Aflatoxin kills the liver cells. They only need to be exposed to the stuff for about three hours. The symptoms in animals are that they lose their appetites and become lethargic. The wings of birds become weak. A post mortem shows haemorrhage and necrosis in the liver and engorgement of the kidneys, if you'll forgive me my medical jargon. Death usually occurs within a week."

"Dementia, Emmanuel, I've always liked peanuts. Now I'll never be able to eat them again."

"Oh, you needn't worry, John. Your salted peanuts are hand-picked—though I suppose an accident might just possibly happen, but at the rate you finish a tin they are not likely to go bad."

"You seem to have really enjoyed your researches. Sometimes, Emmanuel, you give me the creeps."

"You must admit it's a very neat little solution to our problem. A post mortem would show only the damage done to the liver, and I expect the coroner would warn the public against the danger of over-indulgence in port."

"I suppose you've even worked out how to get this across?"

"Aflatoxin, John. There's no serious difficulty. I have a fellow at Porton preparing some now. You only need very small quantity. Point 0063 milligrams per kilogram body-weight. Of course I've weighed Davis, 0.5 milligrams should do the trick, but to be quite sure let's say .75. Though we might rise first with an even smaller dose. One side advantage of all this, of course, is that we should gain valuable information on how aflatoxin works on a human being."

"Do you never find that you shock yourself, Emmanuel?"

"There's nothing shocking about this, John. Think of all the other deaths Davis might die. Real cirrhosis would be much slower. With a dose of aflatoxin he'll hardly suffer at all. Increasing lethargy, perhaps a bit of leg trouble as he doesn't have wings, and of course a certain amount of nausea is to be expected. It's spend only a week dying is quite a happy fate, when you

think what many people suffer."

"You talk as though I were already condemned."

"Well, John, I'm quite convinced he's our man, I'm not waiting for the green light from you."

"If Dainty were satisfied..."

"Oh, Dainty, John, we can wait for the kind of evidence Dainty demands."

"Give me one piece of her evidence."

"I can't yet, but better wait for it too long. You remember what you said the night after the shoot—a cooing husband is always the mercy of the lover. I can't afford another scandal the firm, John."

Another bowler-hatted figure went by, coat collar turned up into the October dusk. I lights were coming on one in the Foreign Office.

"Let's talk a little more about the trout stream Emmanuel."

"Ah, trout. Let other people boast about salmon—gross, stupid fellows with that blubbery of theirs to swi upstream which makes for fishing. All you need are a boots and a strong arm and clever gillie. But the trout—the trout—he's the real bit of fish."

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GARDENING

GLASSHOUSE ECONOMICS

In spite of the fierce competition and price cutting among the manufacturers of greenhouses many people ask me: whether the cost of a greenhouse and of heating it is justified these days.

As with most things you get what you pay for and I have offered in the past some thoughts about the relative merits of glass and plastic, metal and wood.

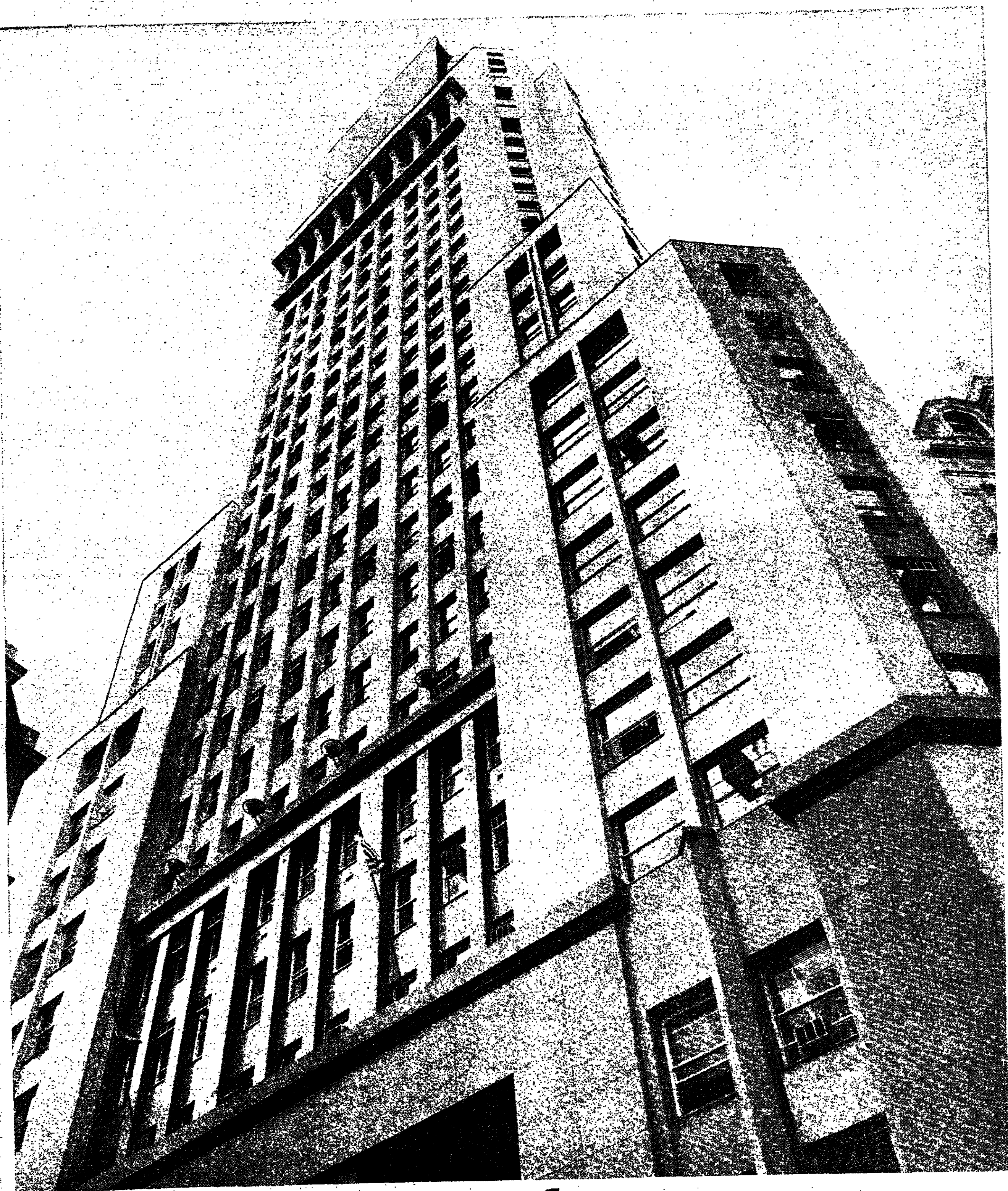
One of the sad facts of economic life is that the better types of glass sub-niches—thick clear plastic sheeting—is just about the same price as glass today and everybody who has bought any glass recently knows how its price has shot up in recent years.

Any greenhouse is better than no greenhouse and a heated greenhouse is far more valuable than a cold house. If one cannot afford a glass greenhouse, then a plastic house will perform a very useful function. But here again do shop around and compare prices and quality.

More important, as I have often stressed, is to work out the cost of a square foot of actual growing area covered by glass remembering that you need 2 1/2 wide panes down the middle of the house.

Even more interesting are the average heating costs for houses of different sizes. It is of course difficult to give more than a very rough estimate of heating costs but in the home currencies we reckon that with electricity at 21p a unit, with a 12ft by 8ft greenhouse at 40 degrees F night minimum from October to April, both months inclusive, it would cost an average of £1 a week, on 8ft by 8ft house 80p, and on 10ft by 10ft house 10p. So we not only have to watch the basic cost a square foot of growing area covered, we also have to consider what is the most economical size of house as regards heating costs.

Of course, if you keep the house



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Fred Emery

Mr Callaghan comes bouncing back

The Prime Minister this week has been shrewdly tending a comeback attempt. The ill-fated election loss, chorused as it was by the Conservative press rally at "Jittery Jim", produced a snappily executed switch of tactics.

Banned at a flick of the wrist was the evidently counter-productive ministerial cooperation of Mrs Thatcher. Indeed, in the Commons there was actual wristwork as Mr Callaghan authoritatively waved down harassment of the Leader of the Opposition by the usually unrestrainable Mr Andrew Faulds.

Instead, Mr Callaghan has re-affected the statesman, as if adjusting a mask that had slipped. Publicly, he is back at his most reassuring. Inflation? "Broadly overcome" was one answer. By Thursday he managed to claim at one point that the price index had actually gone down when he really meant (like the Nixon claim to have "cut crime") that the increase rate was less fast. But Mr Callaghan sumily apologized for having mis-spoken.

Then the Government also managed to avert the much advertised Tory ambush awaiting Messrs Varley and Kaufman in the great debate over the British Steel Corporation losses. Listening to both industry ministers I thought they managed the remarkable feat of sloughing off their alleged derelictions while confessing to decent everyday mis-

calculation, because being wrong when everyone was wrong was no vice.

Now at the weekend there is Mr Callaghan's attempt to break out of the parochialism of current British politics which—even on Rhodesia—cramps everyone's style. So while Conservatives are trying to persuade trade union members that Mr James Prior's reason, not Mrs Thatcher's presumed instincts, govern The Right Approach to the economy, the Prime Minister will be away in Bonn dining with his friend Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, discussing the right way out for the world economy.

Political tactics are, of course, not, as this might suggest, of a piece. There is more ad hoc reaction to events and speeches as well as restraint from reaction than the pose of mastery calculation conveys. None the less what calculation is evident suggests that the Conservatives ought not to convince themselves that they easily have Mr Callaghan on the run.

The latest opinion poll, in the Daily Express, showing Labour back to only two points behind the Conservatives, will reinforce caution at Tory headquarters that the poll lurch at Mrs Thatcher's immigration is not to be trusted on its own. Mr Callaghan is a close reader of opinion polls. And while he and his colleagues are very worried over Labour voter attitudes to the immigration scare, the polls' continuing reflection of concern with economic issues reinforces his calculation.

And that is to orchestrate the claim of success in righting the economy, with the broader theme that Labour remains the party of one nation now that the Conservatives, as he would say, have chosen a new divisive-ness.

Economic events could undo the post-Budget claim of being better off under Labour. But one factor about Mr Callaghan is often overlooked in recalculation: Tory gloom over his failure to nerve in economic crisis, as quoted again and again from Crossman's *Diaries* or a *Cabinet Minister*. It is his determination, whatever else, not to fall this time again.

Of that those who know him remain convinced. The wish will not necessarily become will, of course. But the current Conservative scorn over the supposed collapse of economic euphoria in Britain is unlikely to make that much impression unless they carry conviction that they would handle matters better. It is certain to be different. But a change for the better has to be more than a hope.

The Prime Minister, like Mr Heath, has always been in the forefront of seeking internationally concerted economic action. A couple of years ago he proposed collective economic security, coupling it with western defence posture. He could be accused for seeking it for its own sake. For one argument is that there is little to show for these western summits since they began at Rambouillet in 1975.

The public seem mightily un-



impressed with such grandiose gatherings. But the case is also made for the meetings there might have been a worse slump, even a trade war. Certainly Mr Callaghan would have been much harder pressed by his own left-wing for protectionist measures.

Thus this weekend's Bonn meetings, quite apart from its own seriousness, will be the first of a summery season con-

tinuing into July that is bound to be used by Mr Callaghan as a business demonstration for his economic management.

As for national divisiveness the Prime Minister remains vulnerable to Conservative exploitation of the presently suppressed intentions of the Labour left—fears now being exploited, for Liberal Party ends, by Mr David Steel.

But it is continuing Conserva-

tive rumblings that will give the Prime Minister an opening. There can be no doubt that recent right-wing attacks on certain Shadow Cabinet members for allegedly not supporting Mrs Thatcher have infuriated some of its members and set suspicions on edge at high level.

Mrs Thatcher is affecting not to have heard about it, which is understandable. But she must be presumed to have heard the dire warnings being uttered that unless some of the right-wing crusaders realize that the Conservative Party, like many others, is a coalition, then the "middle ground" will be lost, and the election with it.

The immigration row, and the political opportunism it contains, has sharpened feelings. But it is not only that. Some Conservative MPs go in dread of what the supposed "themes committee" under Mr Angus Maude will drum up next.

And there is no sign of the immigration issue abating. A definitive speech expected from Mr William Whitelaw in April setting out the new Conservative policy—and which is said likely to concentrate less on numbers than on ending future doubts with a new restrictive Nationality Act—may well disillusion Tory hawk.

But before Mr Callaghan can count them as chickens his thoughts will have to turn again to Scotland. The Scottish National Party's threat to Labour's vital government-forming seats is still his direct electoral worry. But that, like Mr Callaghan's visit to Dumfries, is next week's story.

Lamp black to sparkling white...

The cleaning of the British Museum is attracting a larger than usual crowd of tourists and spectators. This might be due, a museum spokesman speculated, to "the new Academic look" of the museum, with its colonnades of white Portland stone, now revealed for the first time for more than a century. Or it might be the revelation in the words of the plans drawn up by the museum's architect, Robert Smirke in 1823, of "a building, chaste and grand in truly classical style."

Since cleaning work began a fortnight ago by a process known as jet-sweeping and blasting costing £66,000, crowds have gathered to watch, as the spokesman puts it, "the dramatic transformation from lamp black to sparkling white" of London's best-known landmark.

The use of "cherry-pickers" or hydraulic lifts instead of scaffolding has enabled the work of the museum to continue, normally despite its double task. It still serves both as a museum and as temporary home for "the literary department" of the future British Library, to be built, it was announced this week, and completed by 1998. Meanwhile many of the books are shared between 16 other buildings including a library in Yorkshire.

However, many libraries and the famous reading room still remain inside the museum, along with the Elgin marbles, the Rosetta stone (the clue to the study of hieroglyphics), the Portland vase, Egyptian mummies, the National collection of prints and drawings and many more treasures.

Regular readers and visitors

to the museum 130 years ago (building started in 1823 and took nearly 30 years) like Sir John Lubbock, the 1st Baron, and Sir John Lubbock, the 2nd Baron, who were just as startled as today's visitors by the sheer beauty of the structure, because they never saw it without its scaffolding.

Photographs of the British Museum dated 1857, five years after opening, already black with the soot of Victorian London (which was in the nearby fields of St. James's Park and St. James's Square). William, the 1st Earl, delightedly picked up hyacinths, "just like in the garden" (he said).

Heard Liebenow, a reader at the British Museum in the 1850's wrote of "the magnificent reading room" its inexhaustible treasures. Books were completed at this time. Marx went there and urged us to go no further, as we had no time to read. We had not a time to read from the museum, for we had comfortable chairs to sit on and in winter a fire and a cosy room, which was from being the case at home for those who had a home.

Today the chairs are cosy but somewhat over-padded which has led to a number of entries to the reading room by the way of photographs taken on the spot and issued as special press. Nevertheless, readers are able to study until 9 pm at least three days a week.

The tiny cafeteria, once a meeting place for John Bernard Shaw, Eleanor Marx, Annie Besant, Harold Pinter and the Webbs, has been replaced by a large cafeteria with a never-ending queue. A coffee shop will be built, and a spacious public reading room to be built later this year.

Olga Franklin

The language for poets



Adam Small: a poet in love with Afrikaans

Mr Adam Small is an Afrikaans poet. He is in love with the language, which he describes as a beautiful and vibrant combination of the African earth and the European experience. He says that he is Afrikaans through and through. He is also a Coloured.

The Coloured community, who number about 500,000, are of mixed blood: Dutch, English, Huguenot, Indian, Malay, and African. They have been disenfranchised and separated from the white community.

They are often known as the brown people, but Mr Small sees them as the grey people, the undefined, the between people. Nevertheless, he believes that culturally they are no different from the English and Afrikaans South Africans.

Afrikaans was their language and not the oppressors'. They were, he said, the true South Africans. They had no sense of colour. His own family ranged from white to black and he could be mistaken for an Indian.

Mr Small is a small man, delicately made, who speaks deliberately and unconsciously seeking for the right word as poets must. He was one of the fortunate non-whites to attend the University of Cape Town. He read philosophy, and taught there until he quit over a political issue.

The whites, he said, were obsessed with colour. That was what South African politics was all about. The Coloured were excluded by the Population Registration Act, which tried to define seven or eight classifications of Coloureds.

Coloured was only a legal invention, but apartheid hurt if you grew up on the wrong side of the line. Growing up was one insult upon another.

He looked down at his desk, and softly said: "Imagine driving through a small town and one of your children asks for an ice cream. He walks into a cafe, and he is shown round the back where non-whites are served through a hole in the wall."

"He comes back to you, and asks what it is all about. How do you explain. What do you say? You can't say anything. You are literally scared of awakening hatred in a small child, but you know that it has already started."

There was a long pause, then he looked squarely at me, and said that there were larger things. "You cannot send your children to the best schools you can afford; only to the second- or third-rate. They were bogged down in life, despite their talents, from the word go."

Mr Small said that he had written a poem about how he and his wife rode in a bus when she was eight months pregnant. The bus was crowded, except for the first three rows reserved for whites, which were empty. His wife had to stand.

He also wrote of when he spoke on the experience to students at Stellenbosch University, and a young girl was angry because a Coloured had not given his wife a seat. She accepted apartheid as God-ordained.

The major Afrikaans writers hated the government. They could not accept the new constitution (which was only an entrenched apartheid). He thought that urban terrorism would increase, and that South Africa would become a second Ulster.

The government would not crack easily. They would put up a hell of a fight. There would be unbelievable bloodshed, and the world should have no illusions about that. The Afrikaans had great physical strength, and they were well equipped emotionally. Their sense of national identity was almost tribal.

Why could there not be brown and black Afrikaans? They shared the same culture. A certain kind of Calvinism had done irreparable harm to his country, but he had grown up in the Dutch Reformed Church, and he was a Coloured. He had outgrown it, but not culturally. It was part of his roots.

"I am Afrikaans through and through. It is sad, a shattering earthquake for me, that these people who share my language and culture should be so obsessed by colour that they have landed themselves in a position of hopelessness in this world."

It will be sad for me if Afrikaans does not survive simply because I know so many white Afrikaans who do not deserve to go down. The quality of their spirituality makes them some of the best people in the world. They are the people I find myself closest to. I say this with genuine and spontaneous love. Ultimately it is the culture that defines one's humanity. If they would only understand that politics are secondary.

Mr Small looked up again and asked if I had any more questions. I shook my head. There was nothing more to be said.

Louis Heren

The story of the ascendancy and decline of a magnificent family library

How Lord Lindsay's library came and went

In September 1889 Robert Curzon, the great collector of ancient manuscripts, wrote Alexander William, Lord Lindsay: "On my arrival [home] I found your list of books, for which I am very much obliged. Only it is lucky that I am so bald, or my hair would have stood on end at the mention of such wonders. Your library must be truly magnificent."

He was right. The *Bibliotheca Lindesiana* surely ranks as one of the most noble family libraries that has ever been assembled—but for all the wealth of its holdings, and for all the weight of its enormous printed catalogues, it is not a widely-known phenomenon, and it finds its way only by glancing references into most accounts of nineteenth century book collecting.

From this month, however, with the publication of Nicholas Barker's *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*, all that is changed. The book is resoundingly subtitled "The Lives and Collections of Alexander William, 25th Earl of Crawford and 8th Earl of Belcarres" and it has been compiled from what Mr Barker characterises as a family archive of exceptional size and diversity. Aside from personal correspondence within a family that was close-knit and busy, there is massive documentation of the affairs of the library from which Mr Barker has been able to set out in moving detail the story of its spectacular ascendancy and its melancholy decline.

The *Bibliotheca Lindesiana* differs from many collections that may seem comparable, by virtue of the humane philosophy at its foundation. Most book collectors have to think up some excuse for what the world (or perhaps only his wife) sees as an eccentric passion ("Ah, my dear, they'll be a good investment when I'm gone"); but there was what Nicholas Barker calls a "romantic magnificence" about Lord Lindsay's grand justification which rises above

mundane materialist arguments. "A choice and well ordered private library," he wrote "exercises most beneficial influence on the family which possesses it, and through such families on society"—and, with a Victorian echo of the "et amicum" of the collector Jean Grolier, he saw the husband of that library as having a duty to provide over it with a large and liberal heart.

Under Lindsay's direction the very modest family collection of the Earls of Crawford grew during the middle years of the nineteenth century to become at least an approximation of his grand design to possess "the most useful and interesting book old and new in all walks of literature, although including the chief bibliographical treasures which lend grace and value to such collections." Terrified of bibliomania—which he believed had possessed him as an undergraduate at Cambridge—he sought to justify every acquisition in utilitarian terms, and, unlike many lesser collectors, he read, worked at, knew his burgeoning library so that his buying policy and his formation of lists of desiderata were conducted to a controlled plan.

From a Europe that was ripe for just such a collector, manuscripts, incunabula, romances, ephemeral tracts and ballad sheets and modern books all flowed in. Just about every branch of human endeavour came to be represented by major holdings (even mathematics—which was well—was dealt with once and for all by Lindsay's son, Ludovic, when he bought in toto the library of Charles Babbage). And even though there were blind spots—Wuthering Heights was found to be a detestable work, and, surprisingly, a fine copy of *Los Capricios* had to be returned as "quite of a different character from what Lord Lindsay expected"—the collection preserved a remarkable internal logic. (And how nice to find cheek by jowl with a large number of old Hebrew

books an order for "Mr Lear's new Book of Nonsense and the last new book by the author of *Alice in Wonderland*." Perhaps the most engrossing feature of Mr Barker's study is the care with which he delineates the richly rewarding relationship (for both parties) that grew between Lord Lindsay and the bookseller Bernard Quaritch, who set up his shop in London in 1847. It was a tremendous partnership, and the characters of both men spring to life through their correspondence; but furthermore it proves the enormous fulcrum of a reading of the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*.

For underlying the library—literally and underlying the themes of Mr Barker's book—there are the coal seams of

Lancashire, whose brilliant exploitation by Lord Lindsay's father provided the material security which allowed him to develop his intellectual passion. The collection was established at Haigh Hall—upon whose gardens the chimneys of Wigan gradually encroached—and although business affairs must necessarily play a lesser part in the history of a library, the reader does well to be aware of this smoky background. A modest quarter's expenditure on the library in 1872 was no less than £1,122 16s 6d, but when, soon after Lindsay's death in 1880, the combined forces of recession and mounting costs required the place of the library to be reappraised, the result was to be not just a cutting of accessions but a selling

of holdings. In 1887, in an ill-advised sale, Lindsay's son Ludovic "tore the heart out of his father's collection" and in 1901, to the dismay of J. P. Edmond, whom Ludovic had appointed librarian at Haigh, almost all the fabulous manuscripts were sold to Mrs Rylands for the John Rylands Library in Manchester.

Given the loving care with which Mr Barker builds up his portrait of the 25th Earl one cannot help regretting that he was unable to match it completely by his discussion of the complex figure of James Ludovic, the 25th. It is true that he shows how much less Ludovic was able to be master of events than his father in the euphoric days of the Lindsay-Quaritch partnership (and this

is symbolized by the grain dropping of Quaritch as he in the years after 1880); it is true that—despite the fact that he can point to Ludovic's genius as a builder of libraries but the pace at which the theca Lindesiana is torn does not allow full justice to be done to a figure who, as one has instinctively sympathized, one has instinctively sympathized with.

So much more needs to be said about his ideas on techniques of bibliography, about his work on the history of the art of writing and his massive collection of French Revolutionary documents. All this activity was effect of the osmotic "mind influence" of the library upon the person most to receive it, but it is not to piece it in perspective alongside his multifarious activities as astronomer, traveller, photographer, pioneer of services in electricity, philatelist, in the euphoric mood engendered by the book, one cannot be feeling that each Earl deserves a volume to himself—a volume which would have allowed Barker to give a carefully substantiated index to the items in the collection that mentions.

Bibliotheca Lindesiana published, appropriately enough, by the antiquarian bookseller Bernard Quaritch, representative to the Reading Club, the aristocracy of collectors. (Despite the eminence of the Club, the aforementioned Robert Curzon in 1867, was moved to press it with an edition of three gastronomic tracts—accounts of the dreadful food at Club dinners.) In normal circumstances, such burgher books are issued small numbers at large price but on this occasion an edition of 400 copies is being issued at £25 a copy. It is welcome news, and in a case could be made for Barker's rewarding work to have been made yet more widely and cheaply—available.

Brian Alderson



Lord Lindsay: terrified of bibliomania, he sought to justify every acquisition.

Life with the drop-outs in Free City

How 750 assorted drug addicts, Marxists and minor criminals found a haven in Copenhagen

The Danes are, in the main, a fairly placid people, less prone to social excitement than either their Swedish neighbours or the Dutch. It is not surprising therefore that the presence, just ten minutes from the centre of Copenhagen, of a colony of around 750 assorted Marxists, drug addicts and minor criminals should have aroused unusually strong emotions.

The history of the Free City of Christiania, as it calls itself, began in 1974 when a group of young radicals protesting against the housing situation began to squat in some of the 150-odd buildings of a recently evacuated defence ministry barracks. Word soon got around, and in summer, when the many wooded open spaces of the 20-acre site must be very pleasant, the population rises to around 1,000, including some 300 foreigners.

In parliament the left has been sympathetic, the right hostile. Successive governments have oscillated between regarding the colony as a social experiment and wanting to throw it out. Their right to evict was upheld in a series of court judgments, but never used, and earlier this month Mr Anker Joergensen, the Democratic Government gave Christiania a reprieve while the future of the site is decided, probably through a competition.

Given the commendable Danish penchant for consultation, and the skill of Christiania's lawyers in taking

appeals through the courts, the Free City now seems safe for another year. Revisiting Copenhagen the other day, I spent five hours in this haven from what most of its inhabitants believe to be the materialist, threatening and conformist society outside. They wanted a gaudily painted wooden fence.

It was snowing, and the first impression was of the amount of open space, and the large number of huge dogs: Alsatians predominated, but there were St. Bernards, Newfoundlanders, Great Danes, even a seemingly well-bred Bloodhound. The buildings range from five-storey barracks-room blocks to some handsome old buildings with a preservation order on them, down to caravans.

Since Christiania has owed its survival to a largely sympathetic press, an efficient information office has evolved. There, periodically interrupted by growling or playing dogs, a young Marxist student called Ole Munk explained just how wrong and "fascist" some of the outside attacks on Christiania had been.

For example, he said, taxpayers claimed they were heavily subsidising the Christians (as the are called). Munk admitted that in 1972 it was agreed Christians should pay 50 kroner (around £5) per month per head for electricity and water, non-payment being financed via the social welfare budget; that in 1975, some 200,000 kr were said to be

owed; and that some occupiers drew social security and used the local medical services. But he said, there were perhaps 200 people in Christiania who would be in a mental home or some other institution (including prison) if they were outside. That would cost at least 100,000 kr. per person per year.

He believed that society, with its pressures, restrictions and sanctions, had often treated such people badly. In Christiania they could do what they wanted, and were accepted—except pushers of hard drugs, who are liable to be beaten up. He believed that most of those with problems benefited from being there, at some saving to society too.

Munk went along with the accepted categorization of Christiania's inhabitants into three groups: active sympathisers, who tend to organize and attend the communal and area meetings, work in the school, forge and various restaurants and shops, passive dependants (social dropouts, alcoholics, etc.); and "passive opportunists," who include criminals, drug pushers and for-

eigners with nowhere else to go. Some foreigners become active sympathisers. For them as for others, the attractions are summed up in such phrases as doing your own thing, absence of norms, being able to relate. In a cafe I met Sue, a 23-year-old former secretary from Bristol, who arrived a few months ago and had no plans to return. "There's so much going on here," she said. "You can never predict what will happen. People act differently day by day—outside you know Mrs Bloggs will always say the same thing."

"People are more truthful here. No norms are put up, and it doesn't matter what you are... if someone is not quite right in the head, he's just a friend of yours too. In runs on vibes."

As if on cue, a Danish girl went by began to bang the table in a slightly demented way. Simon, 22, from Perth, clipped in: "Christiania is a place that can absorb and rehabilitate people. It doesn't have the restrictions which oppress them and lead to their problems."

Later we trudged through the snow to see Sue's large, sparsely furnished room under the eaves of Freedom's Ark, the most notorious large building in Christiania and frequently raided by police looking for drug-pushers, criminals on the run, or foreign over-stayers.

Reaching was by the usual large steel stove made at Christiania's very efficient forge-factory with wood dumped outside by sympathetic demolition contractors.

The electricity, for lighting only, was off—probably a blown fuse from overloading. Water was at the end of a long corridor where some excitement, probably canine, was to be avoided. Any room left for more than a day or two was liable to be broken into, Sue said. She hoped to move to somewhere higher up the hierarchy of desirable accommodation, but that took time.

On we went past "pushers' row," where seven or eight young men sold hash (25 a gram—most people there smoke it) to Simon's two rooms in the attic of an old store block, which he shared with a Dane. There ran to such bourgeois appearances as a lamp, a gramophone, a bucket full of urine spoiled the effect. Nor far away was the small shed from which he sold rapeseed oil, rapeseed purchased on trips with a friend to Amsterdam.

Afterwards we relaxed over a coffee in the Moonfish restaurant-bar. It felt almost

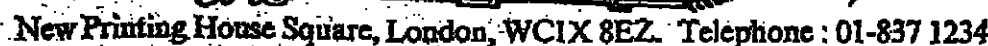
medieval there, or Bruegelian. A mentally retarded young man endlessly scratched his long-haired young head, dressed in denim and jeans, over women's pictures (Christiania's smoked hash is a collective pipe, and costs a lot. Four or five dogs lounge around, and a Labrador's song sort of mastic was involved in a vicious dog blood spattering their feet before they were sent apart by the tail.

A too brief a visit, but a few hours in its strange atmosphere made a considerable impact. It is true that Christiania is not a commune in the sense of a kibbutz-like collective sharing and a degree of self-sufficiency. Its communal meetings appeared to be a bit attended, and understood, and the safety net of the welfare state is ever present.

But as a haven for the oppressed or alienated, its pressures, demands, stereotypes and obsession with questions of conventional sexual values, it did seem to have a different set of values. It is a challenge, and it says much for Danes that they have decided to live with it for another year.

Roger Bartholomew

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iscard d'Estaing is confronted with this manicheism between good and evil is that the majority of French really want. They want but not revolution. In offered them "change risk". Elected by less than one per cent of the he promised to be "the of all the French". far he has not found a break the logic of the

So once again the President, like his predecessors, finds himself obliged to intervene in a parliamentary election campaign on behalf of the outgoing majority, warning the country that if it votes for the opposition it will plunge a fragile economy into chaos. The only alternative to "the regime" remains a left-wing government, almost certainly including Communist ministers and quite certainly dependent on Communist parliamentary support. The danger is not that the Communists may be in a position to seize power and impose a totalitarian regime. The leaders of the Socialist Party, armed forces, the police and the President himself can all be counted on to head off any attempt at that. The Communists are unlikely to have more than half the parliamentary strength of the Socialists, nor will they be given any ministries that involve the control of coercive power.

No, the danger represented by

The French electorate is thus confronted with an unhappy choice between voting for the outgoing majority in the hope that for once it will carry out its programme, and voting for the opposition in the hope that it will not. There is not much reason for confidence in either prospect. One possibility is that the left will win the first ballot in terms of popular votes but will be too disunited to win the second in terms of seats. If that has the effect of chastening the present majority and frightening them into accepting the President's proposed reforms it might actually be the best result to hope for.

From Mr Richard Knox
Sir, Professor Rothbar expresses incredulity at Mr Justice Parker's acceptance of the argument put forward by British Nuclear Fuels at the Windscale inquiry last year, and the apparent rejection of all the arguments put forward by the objectors. The implication of Justice Parker's conclusions is that the arguments put forward by the anti-nuclear lobby were not in fact valid, and therefore its members are not to be taken seriously.
Professor Rothbar does not do full justice to the report, however, which makes several important recommendations on improved radioactive material accounting, on improved health and safety standards for the plant, which must have arisen directly from points raised by the objectors.
Neither is it incredible that the report apparently rejects the basis of President Carter's energy policies. There is considerable opposition to these policies in the United States, and in several countries indignation has been expressed at the United States Government's attitude.

Nuclear engineers in the United States have proposed new proposals for processing plutonium in such a way as to make it virtually impossible to handle without massive special handling facilities, so that plutonium could be rendered closer to a proliferation-proof state by reprocessing. I would add that the entire proliferation argument has diverted attention from the real problem—the ease with which Third World countries can prepare nuclear materials for weapons construction much cheaper, much faster, and with much greater secrecy from small research reactors in universities and other facilities that are connected in any way with the electrical generation industry.

There is only one good reason for this new library, and that is that the present arrangements do not provide enough room for the books. All the other arguments are fallacious. Thus the present Reading Rooms and adjacent rooms are not as a rule overcrowded; the delays in receiving books are tolerable to any serious student; the staff are doing a powerful need to concentrate their British Library in the same building as the National Reference Library of Science and Invention (as indeed is shown by the fact that there is no plan to bring the newspapers section to the new building in the suburb of Colindale). If the quarters for the staff are at the moment inadequate, the slightest acquaintance with Museum and its surroundings suggests many areas where space could be found. Nor should we have any truck with the argument that a great new building is required for reasons of prestige, for the present Reading Rooms is already the most inspiring place for the world's scholars. And there often (unlike planners) know well. (The pictures in the press of the projected new library do not do as it happens, at first sight suggest that we are on the brink of an

Mr. J. P. Felix, happy man, should be encouraged to buy not only Victoria station, but Liverpool Street as well. Conditions of sale should include one that he will take the junk away to Kansas City or the Arizona desert, and another that ER will make a start on cross-town railway working in the London area.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. R. CALVERT,
45 Woodwaye,
Oxhey,
Watford.

Tito, now on a brief London, has seen more of the world's troubles than any leader now living. It is his mind to realize that he was born in 1892, served in the Austro-Hungarian army, was imprisoned by the Russians, fought in the Petrograd of 1917, and fought with the White Guard in Russia's Civil War; to remember it is that in the Second World War he led his countrymen in civil war in his own right as well as fighting the Germans who took power in times of crisis and countrymen's blood. He broke with Stalin in building up the unique Yugoslav system which continues today. He still divides the Balkans into warring lines that divided the eastern and western Roman

empires, Catholic and Orthodox Europe, Habsburgs and Ottomans. The first heretical communist leader, he is now the last of the wartime leaders. He brings with him the breath of history.

But he is still very much an active and concerned politician. With the confidence of his seniority he wishes to make his country's post-war affairs. In recent months he has travelled to the Soviet Union, North Korea, China, Portugal and France. Now he is on his way back from the United States, where he has been telling President Carter of his worries about the deterioration in East-West relations. He needs détente because it provides the best possible environment for the continuing independence of Yugoslavia. A renewal of East-West tension would increase the temptation for both sides

to encroach on this independence, which in turn would provoke tensions in Yugoslavia itself.

President Carter has been wise to recognize the importance of Yugoslav independence. Last year he sent Mr Brown, his Secretary of Defence, for cautious discussions on arms sales in which the Yugoslavs had shown an interest. Since then he has taken pains to show that he respects Yugoslavia's independence and is not trying to diminish it. As a result he enjoys more credibility there than the Russians, whose intentions are still very suspect. It is important that the situation should continue this way. Yugoslavia is still a major factor in the balance of power in Europe. Any threat to its independence from East or West would be a threat to peace.

ment to appreciate the long-term, deleterious effects of the drug.

The operations of the people concerned with this illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking was 28. As the operations were carried out over a period of seven years and allowing for a period of planning, it seems that there was little opportunity for most of them to have acquired the necessary training and experience to run this enterprise, and they would therefore naturally "be of good character".

For these offences they were sentenced to a maximum of 13 years imprisonment.

When the great train robbery took place those involved (prominent among them) were (presumably) without comparable academic and professional qualifications) made "profits" of about £3m, most of which was recovered, and injured

Sir, Your editorial defence of the heavy sentences on the members of the LSD conspiracy claims that LSD is "probably the most potentially dangerous of the non-addictive drugs", but admits that it is "not in the same league of harmfulness as, say, heroin". One of the "social ills" it stresses instead the "huge profits" made from LSD. You seem to be unaware of the irrationality of this attitude, which was perhaps seen at its best in the television reports of the case, showing the triumphant police driving away in a car as if cocaine and tobacco weren't far more dangerous and far more profitable than LSD.

NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.

As long ago as 1905 the Royal Commission on London Traffic (cmd 2597) proposed that the railways should begin to give up their practice of terminating their suburban trains at stations on the perimeter. Instead they suggested

a well worn-whistle exercise, from which valuable practical lessons could be drawn.

I have no idea why this enlightened idea, which was so well carried out, was not followed up.

Yours,
CECIL PARROTT,
The Old Vicarage,
Abbeystead,
Lancaster.
March 7.

As many desiderata for legal system is that the law should be reasonably certain, consistent and application. The judicial coming to the full know that his case considered according to which are ascertain constant. At the same time, undue rigidity in conformity with precedent leads to the erosion of the law and to the commission of errors.

English legal system to achieve the required result by imposing the doctrine precedent on its courts, making the ultimate appeal to the House of Lords, and freedom to depart from precedent. The concession law of Lords to depart from previous decisions granted by the Lord in 1966. It was not to the Court of Appeal, continued to be required, narrowest exceptions, not only decisions by Lords but also previous of its own.

Lord Denning, in his capacity as Master of the Rolls and therefore the judge with most influence over the development of the English civil law, has found these constraints irksome, finding on occasions that he could not do justice in a case before him. He attempted to lay down new, far less narrow, criteria which would entitle the Court of Appeal to depart from its own previous decisions. The Master of the Rolls has now been told firmly by all five law lords deciding the "unmarried" bettered woman's case that he could not do so. Whatever sympathy there may be for Lord Denning's approach, and however much his instincts may be preferred to those of almost any other judge, the House of Lords was right to tick him off.

It can be argued that if any court should have the right to change the civil law of England, it should be the Court of Appeal, which hears more than a thousand cases a year, rather than the House of Lords, which

hears only a few dozen, and can therefore have much less idea of prevailing trends, conditions and attitudes. It is a tempting argument, yet it is not difficult to see that only the ultimate court should have the power to decide that previous interpretations of the law have been wrong. If it were given to the Court of Appeal (of which there are sometimes five separate three-man courts sitting at a time) the result could be to raise appreciable uncertainty. That cannot be in the interests of litigants, or of the public at large, who are entitled to be able to conduct their affairs in the reasonable expectation that the law governing them has a high degree of stability. But if the "revising power" is to be confined to the House of Lords, they must show that they are willing to move with the times, too, in appropriate cases—something they have not always been capable of. Their *decision in the present case*, in favour of the unmarried woman and a broad interpretation of the Act, is a reassuring sign.

families are exploiting the loophole in the law to bring into the United Kingdom male fiancés for their daughters is a fact and this will continue until the present law is amended.

Asian parents who are now looking for male fiancés in the Indian subcontinent could easily find suitable matches for their daughters in this country itself because the Asian community in the United Kingdom now encompasses all religious and ethnic groups, and their states and sub-castes. In fact, quite a few Asian "marriage bureaux" have already sprung up in the London, Midlands and Glasgow regions for this purpose and many Asian dailies and weeklies regularly carry matrimonial advertisements.

Let me also point out that the number of male fiancés allowed into the United Kingdom represents a very small fraction of the total number of bona fide dependents and other United Kingdom passport holders with right of entry that entered the United Kingdom for permanent settlement since the law regarding fiancés came into force.

I believe that the inflow of male fiancés would dry up in due course in a natural way for the following reasons: (a) More and more Asian parents would realise the advan-

Mothers' Day
From the Rev E. H. W. Crusha
 Sir, An article on March 4 expresses surprise that mothers came into Mothering Sunday. The answer is simple. The epistle (both in the old Roman missal and in the Prayer Book) argues that Christians and not Jews are the true children of Abraham. The Rev Sarah St. Paul remarks "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Hence this day became an occasion to rejoice in the Church as the mother of all Christians. That is the theme of Mothering Sunday.
 The Roman rite was full of references to Jerusalem on this day, no doubt because it was customary for the Pope to visit the church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem.
 Yours faithfully,
EDWIN CRUSHA,
 The Rectory,
 Charlton-on-Otmoor,
 Oxford.

needed to be done to prepare for the coming year. The following is a summary of the findings of the working group.

As a result of its recommendations the Department wrote late last year to each Regional Health Authorities setting out the number of house officer posts which should be available in each of the next five years. The notes included the following points:

1. The need to allow some measure of choice both to graduates and consultants. Every Health Authority has accepted the need for high priority in establishing these posts, and our most recent information is that there are already enough posts available to graduate house officers. I am confident that the targets will be reached also in the years ahead.

The working group also suggested that existing arrangements for putting graduates in touch with available posts might need to be strengthened. We have invited the Council for Postgraduate Medical Education to consider what should be done, and I understand they will shortly be announcing their proposals.

I hope that this letter will satisfy those most concerned that we have taken the necessary steps to ensure that sufficient number of posts for newly qualified doctors.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY YELLOWEES, Chief Medical Officer

If you would pardon this clarification.
Yours faithfully,
BADREDDINE SENOUSI,
Ambassador of the Kingdom of
Morocco, London,
49 Queen's Gate Gardens, SW7.
March 6.

Teaching arithmetic
From Professor D. F. Lawden
Sir, Having plumbed the depths of ignorance of pupils in respect of elementary arithmetic, surely the next step should be for the Institute of Mathematics to set a similar test for the cross-section of teachers. The results of the two tests might prove to be related. Could special attention be given to the performance of that section of the profession now in ruthless pursuit of their pay claim?
Yours truly,
D. F. LAWYDEN, Professor of
Mathematics,
The University of Aston in
Birmingham,
Gosta Green,
Birmingham.
March 9.

From Mr J. A. C. Hill
Sir, I notice that boys from Buck-

for transplant
g Commander J. B.

ter of a kidney patient than most to the problem from shortage of organs nt, and should like to go to some lesser known he matter.

of machines leads to s dying. Shortage of ransplant means that s that do exist are for use to three years in transplant. In no nstructing our scheme e waiting time to, say, ch would have the ndrupting the number available for those who ve to die.

a reduction in waiting mputer would do much nt. Life on a machine

it lacks quality. In our case there was a restriction of fluid input to a total of one pint per day, no salts were permitted, and of course holidays were a real problem. Worse, life on a machine leads to a gradual deterioration of general health, which would not occur if organs were available sooner, but does now occur, with unnecessary cost to the patient, and to the NHS.

In the years ahead, when in short supply, organs for transplant would cost more in machine provision and staffing, would save lives now lost, and would improve the general health of existing kidney patients.

Live donation is an alternative: we ourselves found a kidney within the family after a 14-year wait for a cadaver kidney. But live transplants themselves throw up problems; it is unsafe to send organs from the live young, while those of the very old seldom are, at least

likely to transplant successfully. Transplants from the younger dead throw up no such problems, they are available, and contracting-out would make them readily available.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. HOLGATE,
12 Marlbow M2,
Marlbow,
Buckinghamshire.
March 6.

Silent knit
From Mr J. M. Lynch
Sir, And bus conductors' punches no longer go ding.
Yours faithfully,
J. M. LYNCH,
The Gridge,
7 Ty-Gwyn Road,
Fennyng,
Cerediff.
March 9.

(b) Those girls who were born in the Indian subcontinent and who came here in their early teens may succumb to their parents demand to marry a boy back in the home town (or village) but those girls who were born here (the second generation immigrants) would be bold and independent enough to have a decisive say in the choice of their fiancé. A recent religious programme on ITV (*Credo*) showed very effectively the rebellious attitude of some Muslim girls in Bradford on matrimonial and other issues.

Lastly, the point that Mr Kaushal makes regarding some Asian marriages being "compulsory" rather than "arranged", this could be dealt with within the existing legal framework of the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom all those Asian girls whose parents choose for them fiancés that are not normally residents in the United

Sir, Your Chess Correspondent stated incorrectly (February 18) that Landau was Alekhine's "second". The facts are as follows: Landau helped Ewin and I helped Alekhine. Neither was a "second" nor a "designate" "trainer". The arrangement, quite unprecedented in any international match, let alone a world title match, started quite late, at the beginning of December 1935, a few days before the twenty-seventh game, and for reasons which are too complex to be stated here. The term "second" is a misnomer anyway. It is derived from the German "Sekundant", that is the chap who delivers the challenge to a duel (with swords) or takes—and not chess pieces—on behalf of the "first". Neither I nor, I believe, Landau did anything of that kind.

Yours faithfully,
E. KLEIN,
4 St George's Drive,
Westcliff-on-Sea.

Israel's stance
From Miss Elizabeth Monroe
Sir, Mr Samuel Solomon's article of March 1, when it describes the offer made by Mr Begin about the West Bank, mentions that this provides for "self rule and the right to choose between Israeli and Jordanian citizenship".
But he does not mention the clause that accompanies this, and that precludes Arab acceptance. This last is the stipulation that Israel shall remain responsible for the West Bank's defence, internal security and foreign affairs, and that it will therefore be the power in possession.
Yours truly,
ELIZABETH MONROE,
56 Monagu Square, W1.

authority resisted the introduction of comprehensive schools as long as possible.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. C. HILL,
Tynney Lodge,
Newnham,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire.
March 9.

From the Reverend P. B. P. Preist
Pray, Sir, shame! Surely The Times
having told us that few children are
unintentionally competent could
question the answers to the questions
correctly.

Pray, Sir, what time of the day
is 1,312?

Yours sincerely,
P. B. P. PREIST,
St Helen's Priory,
Smeaton Castle,
Whitby,
North Yorkshire.

Athletics

A golden opportunity for Capes and Mrs Reeve

Hockey
England go to Lord's to sharpen their weapons

Teddington are recognized as the oldest club with a continuous record of 120 years. In fact, in other things, the sticks rule which, unfortunately, is not strictly observed in modern hockey. The Buenos Aires team, who will try to prove, by results, that they should have been given a chance to qualify in any of the European Cup to be held at Hammersmith from September 2 to 10. India beat England 3 to 1. Australia 13-5, and that was the only meeting between the two countries. Before their arrival in London, India were beaten by Australia 13-5. The Australians have been put in some disarray by the leg injury of their

Racing

Stopped now looks a going concern

Ayr programme

5-2 Lewis Homes, 7-2 Cover V
Money, 4-1 Gordon & Lad, 7-1 C
TV, 10-1 Golden Leas, 12-1 Sus
Maid, Chrm, 11-1 Major Enterpr

[illegible]

I find it hard to visualize the Barclays Bank have sponsored a hinchow winning with such a big weight. He will be meeting dropped on 17 lb worse terms than when they last clashed at Newbury on New Year's Eve. But with only 10 st 4 lb to carry, Oscele could easily be a hard nut.

(-0) Historic Myth, 9-10-7 A. Taylor
(-1) Golden Murry, 5-10-6 C. Smith
(-2) High St, 11-10-0 O'Donovan

[illegible]

Netherton 6lb when he was beaten a short head by him. Today they will be carrying the same weight.

STATE OF GOING (official): Ayr: Good to soft. Bangor-on-Dee: Good. Soft. Choptaw: Good. Sandown Park: Good. Monday: Southwell-flood.

Wallace, 8-13-7 . . . Mr D. Oldham 7

0 Showaddywaddy 11-0 .. Barry J
00 Wistful Lady 11-0 Mann
543 Woody Woodpecker 11-0 Webber
11-4 Woody Woodpecker 9-2 Dolly

[illegible]

Easterby hopes high for Cheltenham

The Irish invader, Aragon, won comfortably at Punchestown in February. Glintop has only tasted defeat once in his last six outings for Arthur Stephenson. Prince Pepe, Monte Ceco and Coffee Boy are all useful in this kind of company.

5 322121 Cabar Fideh, F. Calver, 6-11-9 R. Link

2.30 GRIMTHORPE STEEPLECHASE (£1,545: 2m 150yd)

[illegible]

... ..

MPs attack Whitehall for spending shortfall

ernment's best guess about the economy. Instead it painted a picture of the world as ministers would like to project it, with unrealistic assumptions about growth, of 3½ per cent, and pay increases, of 10 per cent.

The report observed that the spending shown in the Finance Bill for 1978-79 of £2,400m was greater than the planned cuts totalling £2,200m, made in July and December, 1976 after considerable Cabinet debate. This debate, Mr English said yesterday, was therefore "useless". The biggest cuts were an accident.

He also pointed out that there had been a shortfall in every year since 1972-73 (excluding the nationalized industry investment programmes) with the exception of 1974-75 when spending

On the question of the disproportionate reductions made in capital spending, the report said that even after some of the cuts had been reversed in 1978-79, capital expenditure in that year would be 23 per cent below its level in 1975-76.

Yet at present a quarter of English and Welsh primary school places and half English hospital space were in buildings constructed before 1919. On the figures given in the latest Education White Paper there was little likelihood that there would be much reduction in these proportions before 1982.

Japan 'set to buy' airbuses

airbuses

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, March 10

Japan is on the verge of making a political decision to buy about nine or 10 A300 Airbus from the European Economic Community at a total cost of nearly £129m in a major

In a sudden and complete reversal of policy, Mr Kenji Fukunaga, Japan's Minister for Transport, said today that the Government would call an urgent meeting tomorrow to

discuss the "favourable possibility" of purchasing the Airbus from Western Europe. While the potential order for Airbuses elated many European diplomats in Tokyo tonight, British businessmen pointed out that that proposed deal would only benefit the United Kingdom's economy by £16m and perhaps jeopardize the

British Aerospace Corporation's attempts to secure a £150m contract for the BAC 1-11 aircraft and auxiliary equipment in Japan.

Today's new developments have brought us to a critical stage in the search for a successor for British aircraft," a spokesman for Jardine Matheson, agents for the BAC 1-11, said tonight.

Until yesterday British businessmen had been informed officially that the Japanese Government would never attempt to influence private airlines to

...the foreign carrier of the
embarassing Lockheed Constellation.
Twenty-four hours ago, the
BAC 1-11 stood out as a competi-
tor for a lucrative order on its
own merit.
And now it would seem that
Japan is offering a major air-
line open invitation to pur-
chase the European Airbus to
outwit its competitor, the
American DC10. In a different
context this could affect the
BAC.

Meeting journalists today, Mr.
Fukuyama indicated that none
or 10 Airbuses, each worth
\$12.8m, might now be bought
under the Government's new
policy to promote imports and
ward off the risk of protec-
tionism in Europe.

Dealers' plea fails

The Times index : 194.85+4.60
The FT index : 459.0+8.5

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells.
Australia \$	1.76	1.70
Austria Sch	29.50	27.50
Belgium Fr	64.00	60.00
Canada \$	2.22	2.15
Denmark Kr	11.25	10.75
Finland Mkk	8.30	7.95

France Fr	9.70	9.30
Germany Dm	4.10	3.88
Greece Dr	71.50	67.50
Hongkong \$	9.15	8.79
Italy Lr	1685.00	1600.00
Japan Yn	475.00	450.00
Netherlands Gld	4.37	4.14
Norway Kr	10.67	10.22
Portugal Esc	79.00	74.00
S Africa Rd	2.02	1.89
Spain Pes	159.00	152.00
Sweden Kr	9.24	8.84

Friday,	Switzerland Fr	3.94	3.72
	US \$	1.97	1.92
	Yugoslavia Dnr	37.00	35.00
ex was	Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Foreigners Bank International Ltd.		
and 21	Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.		
20	Unit Trusts:		
	M & G		18
20	Save & Prosper		19

[illegible]

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

A colleague whose flat was burnt out had insured the contents for £3,000. She was surprised and dismayed when the insurance company paid out less than that amount though her losses had greatly exceeded it.

She had fallen foul of the averaging principle, which insurance companies can apply to cases of under-insurance, though she was by no means alone in her ignorance of it. A quick straw poll round the office revealed that seven out of eight supposedly well-informed colleagues would also have expected to be paid the full £3,000 in similar circumstances.

This is not a case of fine print in the policy. Averaging clauses do not feature in domestic policies, though they are sometimes written into industrial fire insurance.

What the insurance companies say is that when taking out insurance the proposer certifies that the amount insured is the full value of the property at risk. If you are under-insured, therefore, it is not just that you are inadequately covered. Technically, you are failing to keep your side of the contract and they are not obliged to pay you at all.

If the company dock its payment to you in proportion to the extent that you are found to have been under-insured it is not, according to its rights, being tight-fisted. It is making you a generous ex gratia payment.

It is a cause for concern, though, that the majority of people insuring their household possessions are in ignorance of this. Plainly, the companies have a case for declaring: "If you are 50 per cent under-insured and half your property is lost, we could say that that was the 50 per cent you were holding at your own risk." But the position should be made clear to everybody.

It leaves the under-insured policy-holder at the mercy of the insurer's discretion. Some companies, in fact, take a more generous view than others, but there is no way of knowing, until after disaster has struck, whether or not the company of your choice will be willing to pay out the full amount of your cover when your losses exceed that sum.

Because of inflation almost all companies now send out annual reminders with renewal notices to check the value of insurance. It would be a simple matter to word these so that it is perfectly clear that there is a contractual obligation on the policy-holder to insure for the full value of the property at risk—not to mention giving policy-holders some hint of what the individual company's attitude to averaging is.

Insurance

Unsettled outlook for bonuses

Nobody can forecast accurately which life office will give the best value for money under a profit-sharing life policy. There is no "best buy".

It does not necessarily follow that today's top-performing offices will be able to hold their positions in the future. Some time ago the point was made that of the top 10 offices in 1950 only two remained in the top 10 in 1975. How many of those will be in the top 10 in the year 2000?

A number of offices are unlikely to continue on the present basis, much as they might like to do so. This does not mean that bonus rates will be cut—the old-established life offices would look upon that as unthinkable, unless the problems were such that there was no other solution.

Instead, premium rates and/or policy charges may be increased. That, of course, would not arouse the furor which would accompany a cut in the bonus rate—especially if, at the same time, there is a modest increase in the bonus rate.

Admittedly, it can be argued that such a practice does not penalize the existing policy-holders: it is only the new entrants who will suffer—and they can go to another office if they prefer. Any event, levels of bonus on their own are almost meaningless. To arrive at value for money, they must be related to premium.

Incidentally, some people argue that the rates of bonus being declared by some life offices are too high. The effect is that the guaranteed element is likely to represent a fairly small proportion of the total

maturity value—if all goes well. But things may not necessarily go well.

One way round that would be for offices to offer alternative profit-sharing contracts—some sharing between today's profit-sharing and non-profit policies—thus giving a higher guaranteed sum assured, at maturity and lower bonus participation.

With high interest rates the life offices had something of a bonanza. What matters now is what can be expected from interest rates in the longer term.

The prospect of lower rates of interest for new and re-invested money, coupled with rising expenses, is not particularly encouraging.

It can be argued that the kind of return envisaged by some life offices in their quotations showing current reversionary and terminal bonus rates would be unacceptable if used to project on a unit-linked policy.

As is well known, in the past life offices adopted a cautious approach to the distribution of profits. To some extent the arrival of unit-linked contracts resulted in actuaries becoming rather more liberal.

Some actuaries consider that present rates of terminal bonus take some account of the profits which outgoing policyholders could have had in the form of reversionary bonuses. Those with policies which have not been running very long have enjoyed better distribution of profits than the earlier generation of policyholders.

John Drummond

Talking shop

Are manufacturers too sparing with replacements?

When you buy a washing machine, a record player, a camera or other fairly expensive item how long do you expect it to last?

What happens when the guarantee period—usually a year—is up and the appliance needs a spare part?

"Throw it away" is the first reaction of many survivors of countless battles with repair men. But clearly, the consumer expects to be able to obtain new parts for equipment for a number of years after buying it.

It may come as something of a shock therefore to find that there is no statutory obligation whatever on manufacturers in the United Kingdom to make or supply functional parts for expensive machines beyond the usual guarantee period.

The problem is one of increased affluence, wider choice, a faster rate of technological innovation and the entry of the concept of fashion into previously solid utilitarian household objects, such as kitchen cabinets and cookers.

Before the "never had it so good" days of the 1950s and 1960s household goods and equipment were subject to a slow pace of replacement. Finding spare parts for granny's sewing machine was no problem.

But now that manufacturers are bringing out new models every two or three years to satisfy what they think is the public demand for bigger and better goods there is the problem of continuing to supply spare parts for the swiftly obsolete older versions.

From the manufacturers' point of view it is clearly uneconomic to carry on making parts for machines decades

after the product has been superseded. Most companies look at the faults experience of a given model over a period of years, decide how long the public can expect to be kept supplied and manufacture enough parts to meet the forecast demand.

But some lines fail to sell well enough and may be terminated after a year—and this is bound to affect future availability of spares.

Although there is no legislation on this point, the Office of Fair Trading has attempted to obtain a consensus on life expectancy when negotiating codes of practice with trade associations. The code of the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances, for instance, provides a very specific guide to what the consumer should be entitled to in the way of spare parts.

Small electrical items—hair-driers, tooth brushes and razors, for instance—are expected to be supplied with new parts for between five and eight years after the product has ceased to be manufactured. Domestic cleaners, fridges, freezers and spin and tumble driers are expected to have spares in ready supply for a minimum eight years.

For cookers, dishwashers, washing machines and water heaters the code lays down a minimum period of 10 years, while thermal storage heaters should enjoy a supply of parts for at least 15.

But it should be stressed that the code is purely voluntary. The Office of Fair Trading

has been in existence for only three and a half years and only a handful of industries have so far introduced codes of practice.

The Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers Association also has a code which embraces the view that this class of goods should on average be kept supplied with spare parts for seven years after production. But this is a retail association and does not speak for the manufacturers who have no code of their own.

Thorn, one of the United Kingdom's largest "brown goods" manufacturers, says that it expects its television sets to be usable for seven years, but other electronic products, such as the currently fashionable music centres that sell for up to £350, are expected to have a life of only five or six. This period covers the availability of functional parts, not decorative or other parts which are not vital to the operation of the equipment.

But Thorn and other companies expect something like a music centre to undergo substantial modification every two years—making a total average life of, at best, seven. Does this constitute reasonable value for money?

My personal feeling is that it does not, although the argument is that the more items must necessarily have a shorter life expectancy because of the rapidity of change in the electronics industry.

Goods that carry lengthy guarantee agreements for the replacement of faulty parts will naturally have spares for longer periods, since the makers have to manufacture

Product	Average production run	Post production supply of spare parts	Guaranteed period
Washing machine	5 years	10 years	1 year
Camera	5 years	10-15 years	1 year
Television	5 years	7 years	1 year
Sewing machine	3 years	10 years	10 years
China	3 years	3 years	none

and stock them under the terms of the sale agreement. The company says that the most recent machine for which spare parts are or now readily available went out of production in 1963—15 years ago. On the other hand singer was, rather endearingly, making machines up to a couple of years ago.

Competition from other manufacturers, putting the company under pressure to revamp its models more frequently, has led to a reduction in the guarantee period from 20 to 10 years.

Hoover's obsolescence programme allows for a ten-year life for its range of products beyond the date when manufacture ceases, which seems reasonable. Vacuum cleaners, despite a fair amount of updating over the years, are far from being fashion items, of course.

On the leisure front the pho-

tographic industry is probably a good example of one where the consumer "demands, and obtains, constant technological advance. Kodak claims to be able to supply parts for cheaper ranges (under £10) for five to seven years after the end of production. For more expensive items the period is ten to fifteen years.

But except where, as in the case of Singer, guarantee obligations on the part of a manufacturer to keep the customer supplied. If there is a run on spare parts for an obsolete model no one is going to retol a production run—it would be quite uneconomic.

One area where consumers find manufacturers' tendencies particularly irritating is china and glassware. The very expensive, classic ranges tend to continue in production for years, but at the cheaper end—if you call £100 dinner services cheap—the manufacturing life cycle can be very short.

Royal Doulton says the produces a pattern in cheaper range for about 10 years and phases it out another three. After that, as little Johnny has made the place setting—the owner will find she cannot replace broken items unless she is lucky enough to come across a retailer with old stock.

It is to be hoped that trade associations covering most consumer goods will incorporate the principle of minimum life expectancy into trading codes. One day, there will be no need to give these exacting statutory tests.

For the moment, the the most the consumer can do is ask before purchase what the likely period of production and the length of the guarantee period.

Margie Drummond

House buying

Conveyancing the message of title insurance

The last attempt to introduce title insurance into this country (by Stewart Title) foundered among internal disagreements and financial difficulties within the United States based company. It did not operate long enough to provide any real evidence of either benefits or the dangers of title insurance.

The principle of title insurance is simple. The policy guarantees the house-buyer that he has valid title free of any defect in his property. If his title is attacked, the insurance company will defend his ownership free of any legal costs. If it turns out that the ownership cannot be successfully defended, the title insurance company will try to "buy off" the challenger.

This, if it is suddenly discovered after the purchase—that someone has a right of way through the property, the insurance company would make an offer of compensation to per-

sue the holder of that right to give it up. If that cannot be done, then the insurance company will pay the house-owner compensation for the fall in the value of the property resulting from the existence of the defective title.

The title insurance policy does not provide cover for adverse claims which are apparent. If the property is house-bought knowingly caused or allowed, or which he knew about but failed to tell the company, or which inspection of the property should have made him aware of, there is no cover in the obligations imposed on the lessee by the lease itself.

Last week CTD-Dominion Title Insurance launched its campaign to try to persuade the home-buyer here to follow the example of his United States counterpart, for whom title insurance has proved of much benefit (and provided, at the

same time, not a few shekels for the companies issuing the policy).

CTD-Dominion has serious long-term intentions in the British market. It has, in fact, been here since 1973, in a small way, and its observations and experience over the past five years have convinced it that there is a future for title insurance in this country. That will now be put to the test.

There is no question of CTD-Dominion's respectability and financial standing. The company here (now a member of the British Insurance Association) is a subsidiary of Chicago Title Insurance Company, which issues more than 600,000 policies annually in the United States and has been in the field for more than a century. The parent company is itself part of the Lincoln Group, which has assets exceeding £3,000m.

But CTD-Dominion is doing

more than merely trying to sell its insurance. To the concern of the Law Society, it has bought a small company, NCG Conveyancing, and is offering a conveyancing/title insurance package at a price lower than is charged by solicitors for conveyancing.

One of the attractions of the package is that the costs are known in advance to the prospective purchaser or seller. The cost of buying or selling a £50,000 registered house is £62.50, going up by £2.50 for every £1,000 so that the package costs £75 for a £10,000 house, £87.50 for £15,000 and £100 for a £20,000 property. The only extras are: £10 extra for a transaction involving an unregistered property, and between £2 and £10 for postage and telephone.

Direct comparison with solicitors' charges (which are not known in advance) is difficult, because the solicitor takes into account a number of varying factors: but there is no doubt that the CTD-Dominion package is much cheaper, possibly by as much as 25 per cent, mainly because a substantial part of the solicitor's fee is, in effect, risk premium, which works out at about £5 per £1,000 of the value of the property—double the title insurance premium of £2.50.

The advantage of using solicitors, on the other hand, is that they can provide legal advice on such allied matters as tax. The CTD-Dominion operation consists only of the conveyancing work.

The Law Society has joined issue with CTD-Dominion about some of its claims. In particular, the Law Society says that title insurance is largely unnecessary in this country because of the protection afforded by the registered titles in the Land Registry, which, in effect, mean that state guarantees the title.

Another criticism by solicitors is that the policy is narrow in scope and does not provide cover for many of the things which could go wrong with a transaction.

CTD-Dominion also provides policyholders with a building society, or a lender that the mortgage is a first charge on the property. At a flat rate of (if taken out together with owner's policy) it should provide a building society or lender with a better system, which involves a solicitor much more than the consumer.

Marcel Ben

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Investor's week
A brighter market despite the gloom from ICI

Proving, once again, that stock markets are anything but predictable, equities shrugged off the prevailing gloom and edged up throughout the week.

Much of the improvement came from "bear" closing as jobs were caught short of stock, but towards the end of the account there were signs that institutional investors were buying their way back into the market.

Trading was light, with the number of bargains marked topping the 5,000 level only yesterday, as equities were hedged on their way by demand for the long Easter account.

The FT ordinary share index, at 459.0, ended the week with a net gain of 22.8 and the account 14.3.

Gills, too, had a better week. On Monday, in the quietest day's trading this year, the announcement of the February wholesale price index, showing that factory gate prices were down on the January levels, was enough to fuel an afternoon spurt and give the FT index a 6.6 gain.

Nervousness in front of the bank lending figures on Tuesday evaporated when they proved to be better than expected and this initiated the technical rally which continued to the end of the account.

However, Unilever's results failed to provoke much response and the shares closed unchanged. A confident chairman's statement to shareholders at the Trust Houses Forte annual meeting provided a booster for the equity, as did more than double profits at Sandhurst Marketing.

ICI hit their markets on Wednesday with a warning that a strong currency would severely damage exports and the FT index, after being six points up at one point slipped back to end with a net gain of only 2.6.

However, gold shares managed to glitter, as shares rose on the back of a bullion price which touched \$190 for the first time in three years.

On Thursday interest focused on oil, with Shell and Ultramar reporting. Gloomy prospects for the former knocked shares to around 500p, while the latter climbed some 10p to 208p on a good performance.

The week finished in firmer style with several leaders, such as Bechem at 615p and Metal Box at 304p, moving ahead strongly. Midland Bank, unveiling profits slightly above its right issue forecast, was up 2p to 345p.

Alison Mitchell

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK					
Rises					
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment	
234p	78½p	A. Bell	20p to 220p	Ahead of figures	
690p	372p	Beecham Grp	32p to 615p	£41m UK expansion plans	
382p	246p	Metal Box	18p to 304p	Engineering strike threat fades	
266p	124p	Ultramar	16p to 224p	Good profit figures	
71½p	49p	Woolworth	9½p to 71½p	Sparkling results	
Falls					
245p	122p	Blagden & Noakes	4p to 214p	Disappointing profits	
187½p	86p	Kwik Save	7p to 71p	Seller in the market	
322p	77p	Oil Explor	2p to 184p	Fears of dry well	
287p	188p	Scholes, G. H.	13p to 255p	Stagnant results	
85p	23p	Stocklake Hldgs	11p to 72p	Poor figures	

Friendly society problems

Policyholders in Drummond Assurance, the friendly society which the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies banned from entering new business earlier in the week, must be wondering what the outlook is for both the company and for contracts.

Drummond Assurance, with assets of some £16,500, was forward only in 1976 and there are only 180 policyholders.

The Registrar has felt obliged to act in this way after an investigation—which followed policyholder complaints—showed that management costs were excessive and not likely to improve and, secondly, because the financial standing of one of the companies with which it is associated, Drummond Investors, has been called into question.

The options facing policyholders are a rescue operation by another friendly society, or keep the advantages of policies intact or a winding order and distribution of assets. Discussions are being held with the former manager of Drummond, mobilize policyholders and there is always a faint hope that the business be transferred to another

The Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Company, Limited

(MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES)

Highlights of Annual Report for year to 31st December, 1977.

Net Revenue	£4.27m	+30%
Dividend	3.77p	+30%
Total Assets	£166m	+10%
Assets per share	201p	+7%

Geographical Spread of Portfolio

U.K.	51%
U.S.A.	25%
Far East	14%
Europe	4%
Elsewhere	6%

Current policy remains that of producing long term growth in assets and a steady increase in dividends to match and if possible beat the rate of inflation.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary.

The Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Co. Ltd.
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c/o C. & C. Securities Ltd.
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1/2 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 6BA
Telephone No. 01-523 4890

J.P. Smith

Company	Last Price	Ch/gs	Gross Div(%)	Yld %	P/E
Absprung Ord	50	+1	4.2	8.4	9.3
Absprung 181% CULS	153	+3	18.4	12.0	—
Armstrong & Rhodes	35	-1	3.3	9.4	14.9
Bardon Hill	150	—	12.0	8.0	10.3
Deborah Ord	112	—	5.1	4.5	9.0
Deborah 171% CULS	228	+4	17.5	7.5	—
Fredrick Parker	130	—	12.0	9.5	5.1
George Bahr	146	-1	5.0	10.2	5.8
Jackson Group	48	-1	5.0	10.4	5.6
James Burrough	97	—	6.0	6.1	8.9
Robert Jenkins	320	+2	27.0	8.4	5.4
Twinlock Ord	161	+3	—	—	—
Twinlock 12% ULS	77	—	12.0	15.5	—
Unilock Holdings	81	—	7.0	8.6	10.0
Walter Alexander	99	+1	6.4	6.4	7.3

Buoyant oils

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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THE FINANCIAL TIMES

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[illegible]

Weekend

SHOPAROUND

Sheila Black

It is time we gave a report on our competition for fireplace accessories (December 10, 1977). A number of the series covered products that are already being made—notably the fire-screens which draw, like curtains, across the front of the fire from a rod. For details of these, contact Puritan Forge, High Wycombe, Bucks, which sends leaflets and does a mail order service. Cinder sifters and riddles are also not too hard to find in country ironmongery and hardware shops.

The judges regarded home-made and paraffin firelighters as dangerous and felt that complicated technical developments such as smoke tubes still needed much research. We loved the giant runcible spoon with all its holes but felt it was both impractical and unnecessary, since its functions are already well carried out by rather more practical products. A fire-screen—well, there are plenty of those about as there are fenders, even of the types designed by Times readers. We thoroughly appreciated all the trouble to which you went, the careful planning and details and we hope no one will be too disappointed at being out of the running.

The Coal Board and solid fuel people and myself liked a number of ideas. These are

being examined for possible manufacture so we shall keep you in touch with any developments. Among the entries that aroused our interest were a swivelling trivet to fit on the edges of grates; this or a counter-balancing version to sit near the fire's edge for stockpots, stews, soups and just hot water; potato-baking prongs—yes, but for use in a cookpot which had been one of our own ideas, before we asked for yours.

The cookpot is something we visualize as hanging from a special hook in the fireplace or from a sturdy rod with telescopic action, spring-loaded so that the rod can fit from one side or the other and remain firmly in place. It would probably have to have a hook so the cookpot can be easily removed so there are still a number of aspects to be worked out. During the Second World War and for some time after it, I did a good deal of cooking on my open coal fire in a punctured rusted tin. I baked in it, stewed in it, and so forth, laying the tin on the edge of the grate with its overhanging end on a brick. Many a good meal we had from that tin which, combined with a home-made haybox, saved a lot of money and fuel in those impecunious days.

A backplate was another of our own ideas to which some readers came close. So many people have wallfires and room heaters these days without large fireplace-type surrounds that somewhere to put the poker, tongs, etc. poses a problem. They cannot hang on the wall because it would soon be filthy, so there seems to be some demand for a wall-hanging backplate in brass, black iron, stainless steel or some other material, complete with hanging hooks or pegs or clips.

Incidentally, a mulling poker is not necessary. The ordinary poker, if heated to a red-hot glow, is purified and clean enough to sizzle in your cider, ale or wine. Just get it red hot first—the flavour is better that way.

The best ideas, strongly considered for prizes, all came from Times readers. The first is a coal-bod with assisted feed device of some kind, the idea being that so many of the feeding holes for solid fuels are rather inaccessible and it is difficult to hurl the hod forward so the fuel runs neatly down into the fire. There were very good drawings with this entry and it seems well worth working out and developing. A conical water boiler, which could boil anything else, is another, since it would fit well in most fires, ancient or modern, look well and be original as well as useful and money-saving. A special refuelling shovel, mainly for coke or anthracite, with some assisted feed device, rather like the hod, is yet another acceptable idea. Various suggestions for improving grates are also worth taking to the drawing board.

Meanwhile the Solid Fuel Advisory Service is working with local craftsmen and cottage industrialists to get together the best range of accessories they can find, to be marketed from about the autumn under the name of "Firecraft". Some new grates are also in the pipeline—just the grates, dogs and baskets, not the fireplaces on which there has also been much thought. In many cases, the SFAS is designing accessories and inviting suitable craftsmen to make them. So all your ideas and efforts were very gratefully received and any that go into production will earn prizes for their inventors.

Anybody who visits either the

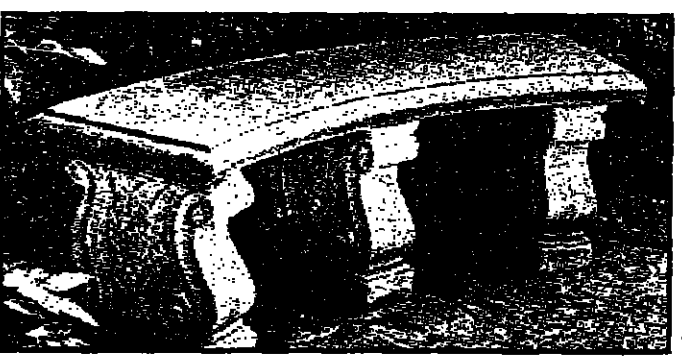


Forester

Building Centre in London's Store Street or the Ideal Home Exhibition can buy accessories on the spot. To see the products, send for the Firestyle leaflet from SFAS, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1. More and more fireplace and accessory shops are erupting every month, nationwide.

At the Ideal Home Exhibition, the 70th under the aegis of the Daily Mail which founded it, are some new room heaters and fires. I fell deeply in love with the Adam-style dog fire made by Ousdale Foundry Company. This is a real beauty, in brass, stainless steel or copper at about £135, give or take a few pence. It has majesty without being enormous and would fit any room, small or large. A large canopy, which is a kind of heated, convector "stove" in itself, is gorgeous

in any of the materials and the low, wide fire burns most fuels. The front of the ashpit area is also of steel, brass or copper, with a ventilated damper. Really smashing at the price since it incorporates a back boiler which heats four radiators and a domestic hot water tank or five radiators. Whole house heating with beauty—my major complaint being that it was not available when I installed a fireplace. Ousdale is at Long Ing, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancashire. (028-281 3235).



sure air into a separately ducted double "skin", passes the air under the ashpan and along under the firebars to collect heat. The convected hot air warms the whole room very well and overcomes one of the drawbacks of some fireplaces which send heat straight up the chimney leaving one with a cold back (Jezebel is at The Old Farmhouse, Gilbert Street, Ropley, Alresford, Hants). Prices are from £130 to £400 according to size and model. They look like a combination of antique and modern and they really work well.

A Rayburn 16-inch fire has an integral hob and is excellent for keeping a pot or kettle on the boil. Trianco's Redfire Plus 9 looks very smart indeed with its stainless steel fascia and trim. The Pither stove, superb in its simplicity, are among the living fires on the SFAS ground floor display stand. The simplicity of the Pither Studio stoves is pleasing. Those cylinders in matt black or stainless steel, free-standing and decorative, are excellent new versions of the old stove-type room heaters. The black one has a brass trim. The damper control is excellent and they can burn for 48 hours without attention. The new Pither Forester, from £150, is one of the nicest dual-purpose stoves I have seen—burn it as a closed stove or open up the doors for an open fire with either wood or solid fuel. Leaflets from Wade Lewis, 117 Windmill Road, Harris Way, Sumbury, Middlesex.

Other manufacturers are showing Victorian-style Tortoise, Bijou and Godin stoves, and handsome designs called Wedge and Octagon.

But oh, SFAS, did you have to lay that plump, stuffed Dalmatian before the Ousdale dog fire? Such a handsome fire, there was no need for this rather gruesome, untypical scruffy dog before I have Dalmatians and receded immediately. Well, they cannot get everything right, I suppose. Meanwhile, may I remind readers that there is an excellent DVD fireplace made by Minister of Thimister, Somerset; that Kingsworthy Foundry makes marvellous fire dogs, and backplates, depicting anything you can dream of from cherubs to rope-twists, from a woman with angels to lions, from peacock and carriage to horsemen. Send

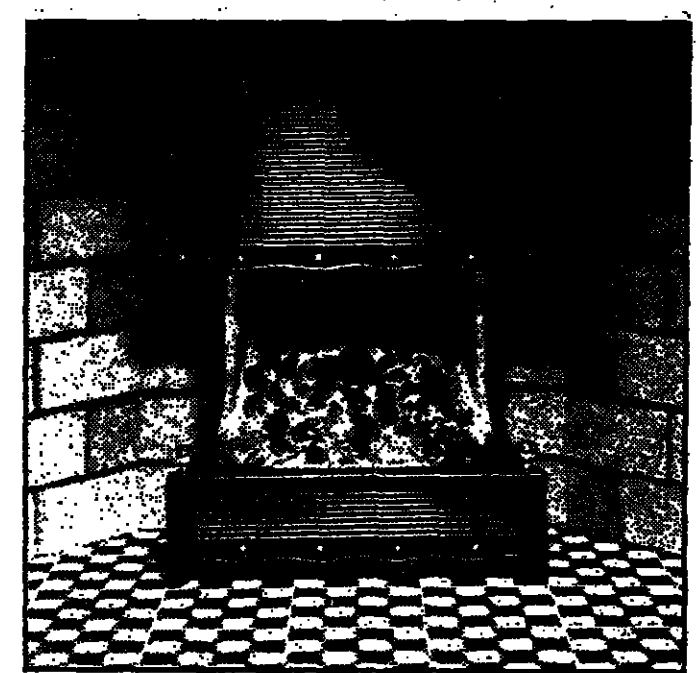
for their lists or visit them at Kingsworthy, Winchester, Hants. U.A. Engineering is doing a good range of stoves, cookers and boilers that burn wood or solid fuel (Canal Street, Sheffield, S4 7ZE). Summer is the time to install fires, while the house is warm enough for workmen to be leaving doors wide open as they trudge in and out.

When I asked for your ideas for accessories I wrote about Tippy, the ashbin which made ash clearance so neat and easy. Since then I have tried out a similar device, albeit one that has been on the market considerably longer, called Trapa. Trapa has a good deal to recommend it. Very sturdy, and bigger than Tippy, so it holds more ash. It also has a patent carrying handle which opens the narrow lid as you hinge the handle back. Problems arise for me when I tried to empty the ash. Like the majority of town or city dwellers and a fast-growing number of rural residents, I use plastic sacks for rubbish. To hold the bag open single-handed and to manoeuvre the handle and opening of Trapa while turning it upside down within the mouth of the ashbin, avoid ash clouds all around me is very, very difficult. The

Trapa is heavy, which makes it even harder.

Having said that using sacks might bring particular problems, Trapa is useful for these with bins and it is undoubtedly well made. It sells at £10.50, measures 15in by 18in by 4in and looks smart in a bronze finish on the strong steel case. But, for emptying into plastic or paper sacks, the smaller, lighter Tippy, with a lid that can be opened in advance, and which can be held in one hand and tucked inside the bag with the bag rightly pulled around it to avoid ash clouds, is more useful for people like me. The Trapa is made by Nymark, 178A London Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1XR (0483 32826) who will send leaflets with diagrams and instructions.

So many fires or room heaters with back boilers are now well designed that it may be worth asking people with large kitchens if they ever thought of having an open or at least a glowing fire in the kitchen? I think it is a lovely idea to revive where there is space. Then you could have one in the living room as well or just heat that by radiators from the kitchen heat. Details of any brands mentioned here from SFAS.



Rayburn

Signs of spring have been so welcome that London, at least, seems to have been full of people queuing at nursery shops and freshening up their gardens, terraces and balconies. One of the best annual catalogues of garden furniture still comes from Haddonstone, which specializes in reproduction stone at the more expensive end of the market, but which has really majestic designs for small or huge gardens. Choose from troughs, urns, vases, pots, benches, fountains and just plain ornamental lions. Put up some balustrading instead of a wall or top brick gateposts with ornamental finials.

Small stoneware flower containers in a plaited basket pattern start at about £17 and go up to around £90 for more ornate and larger pots. A dove-cote would set you back £395 but fountain accessories come cheaper. You can spend nearly £400 on a barbecue table inlaid with mosaic tiles and with a bronze finish (more than double that for the golden version). But not everything is expensive at Haddonstone, despite their excellent standards of quality and service. So, if you have space and a decent amount of spending money, get the catalogue for study from Haddonstone, Ludlow, The Manor, East Haddon, Northampton NN6 8BU.

Edenlite really has done well to produce relatively inexpensive greenhouses, cold frames and other garden aids. Relatively because nothing for the garden is really cheap today. The garden frame pictured here, is not bad at £18 (without glass). It is 4 feet long by just over 2 feet wide, and slopes from 11 feet high at the back. It really is easy to move around and the lid opens, which is less

difficult than the sliding type of frame top. This is going to be the year you will need protection for hardening off late-planted seedlings gradually and I have somebody trying out some clothes for an imminent report.

Greenhouses by Eden are very well known, widely stocked and there is now a big range from very small indeed to large. They send leaflets, brochures and all sorts of helpful data to anyone who applies and they are displayed at most larger garden centres and at many a department store. Rather newer is their entry into garden furniture but the Victorian pattern of Victorian reproduction furniture has become extraordinarily popular already. The range includes a central table with a hole in it for the garden umbrella, priced at about £48. Carver chairs are about £39 each and dining chairs not much less at £35 while coffee tables are about £30. In the Victorian Consort range, which marries mellow Iroko wood to the plasticized white metal, benches are £39 and tables £56. Prices vary a little from one retailer to another, of course. Prices and stockists of everything from Edenlite, Hawksworth, Swindon, Wilts SN2.

Gardeners would welcome many of the articles and prices in the new Argos catalogue. Just out and in most Argos branches now. Lawnmowers are from just under £16 for the smallest up to £90 for a Qualcast that I have recently seen priced at well above £100. They offer really excellent value on a Western red cedar table, packed flat but easy to assemble, at about £38 for the table and two benches. Not luxury garden seating but great for children, really. They have more in the plushier price brackets. Greenhouses are now in their

ranges, dispatched directly. The 6-foot model, an aluminium affair that arrives complete with glass, is about £125, which strikes me as not bad.

Finally, until we get a rundown on the clothes next week, remember the 1,300 gardens of England and Wales that are open to the public. Many are a joy to visit and many also have something to teach gardening fanatics. The Dutch Gardens at Sutton Place, near Guildford, Surrey, is delightful and the Japanese garden at Heale House, Wiltshire, really charming. Of course most country gardens are a joy but there are a good many London gardens to visit as well—on Ham Court in Highgate village, at Eolland Park, Chiswick, Islington and St John's Wood. I love the descriptions in *Gardens of England and Wales open to the public*. There is the small walled garden in Kensington designed for one pair of hands. The Morleys, Selwyn, which concentrates on all-year-round colour and is supposed to be a good example of how to achieve it.

Gardens of England and Wales open to the public is the booklet that tells you all about opening days and times, how to get there and the rest. It is at some bookshops for 50p in a bright yellow cover with a picture of Rodmanton Manor in Gloucestershire. But you can play safe and buy it directly for 65p (including postage) from The National Gardens Scheme, 57 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LR. Now this little book of 145 pages would make a charming little Easter gift to someone who loves gardens and it is seasonally bright yellow.

The proceeds from garden admission charges and the booklet go to support nurses of all ages and to contribute to the Gardens Fund of the National Trust to help to preserve gardens of national and historic value.

Sorry, readers who looked for Bassishaw Highwalk steps to Solution's gift shop near Winchester House because they are actually near Austral House, Basinghall Avenue. Happily, most of you found it first time at the end of the Highwalk. I am so sorry still for readers who went to Ryman's at 6 Great Portland Street to see the carbonless paper. For some reason known only to themselves, Reed had decided that Monday was the first trading day after Saturday morning publication of *The Times* and failed to deliver the carbonless paper until Monday. Ryman's had assured me that all would be well, and I did my best. However, it went wrong and I do apologize on behalf of those who let you and me down.

What with Valentine's Day and Mother's Day falling so soon after Christmas, Easter looks like being short-changed as a gift time. I for one will send a gift only to my mother who will be more or less alone. For the rest, the family will do what we have done for the last several years and have fun painting or decorating eggs at home.

To make lasting eggs, blow them by spiking each end and blowing the contents through as with a smaller bird's egg. Allow to dry, then paint the fragile shells and varnish. Give in ones, twos or threes nested in a little hay, straw, wood-shavings or something of the kind. Send a large family six of them in an egg box.

A lot of eggs and then paint them into characters. Pirates look very good, with black eye-patch and spotted kerchief painted above a fierce mouth and beard. Little bits of wool stuck on as hair make Goldilocks or, more recently, Hazel, the TV detective: white Kojak, another of the same, is easy to make and needs no hair. Muppet faces are popular and easy enough to paint, as is the traditional Humpty-Dumpty. Shapes and colours are attractive in themselves and you can get quite clever with tiny transfers, which are cheap and available from most stationers. Flowers look charming too. Real eggs are much better for your health than gorging chocolate. If you must buy chocolate, the choice is terrific.



Timothy White's stand at the Ideal Home exhibition is an impressive and attractive display of plastic kitchen wares in oranges and beiges and browns, very chic and eye-catching. Their larger branches are beginning to stock some good things. The decanter shown here is Trigon, of Czechoslovakian crystal and very elegant

as well as rather well priced at £9.95 each. The larger matching goblet is £1.95 and is good to drink from. Smaller wine and cherry glasses are respectively, £1.75 and £1.45 at the moment, but who ever knows when there might be the odd few coppers up or down on imported goods.

Also at the larger branches are those transparent plastic grinding mills of clear, sparkling acrylic, durable and workable without sucking as wood can, lovely though natural woods are. They sell four colours with different top—green, brown, transparent and white. Buy them full of any one of a variety of herbs or essences. All can be refilled so make good gifts for herb-growing gardeners and cooks at £1.95 each.

Fotherby Willis Electronics, a division of the large Glyndwr household products group, has devised and launched a rather interesting anti-burglar device. It is, quite simply, a digital clock, a smallish, simple thing clad in toughest aluminium so that it can stand a good deal of vandalizing. A precision clock, it is really ineffective to have around the house, even useful and attractive if you like digital clocks. On its right hand side is a socket into which fits a plastic "key" a simple enough plastic cylinder, but virtually impossible to reproduce or to simulate. Remove the key and, after 20 seconds, the clock has set up a sensitive field to fill the room in which the clock's set by transmitting an inaudible high-frequency signal.

Any intruder or disturbance in the room is then registered by the clock so as to set off a screaming alarm which wakes everybody up and scares off all but the most determined or hardened intruder. The 20-second delay is, of course, to allow whoever sets the clock to escape from the room before the din starts. Should the intruder or anyone else pull out the electric plug, the clock's batteries take the din over, since they are automatically recharged by being plugged into the mains.

Cats or dogs can start the howl although buggies will create no little disturbance. Do not risk having one in the bedroom because too much movement in bed or of the bed-clothes will also start the scream. The clock should be

positioned so that the "transmission rays" beam out from a hard, reflective surface off which they can bounce back. The clock should not be so sited as to prevent a burglar or anyone else from being full home protection but it is a deterrent and some house-holds might like more than one. Very new, it has limited distribution at present. I can foresee problems when those rather inflexible department stores have to face up to which buyer buys it and what department stocks it.

The clock, BD 100, is used in natural, anodized, brass and non-scratch black plastic measures about 7 1/2 by 4 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches, has red electronic numerals against the dark face and a special alarm tone other than a suitable plug for a local socket. If you cannot buy locally, ask Fotherby Willis for stockists or even for a supply until they get a local stockist. See them in Stand 316 in the Gallery of the Ideal Home exhibition or buy them there at only £39.50. The new, it has limited distribution at present. I can foresee problems when those rather inflexible department stores have to face up to which buyer buys it and what department stocks it.

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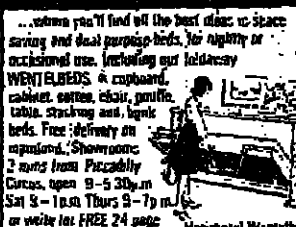
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